FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

16 DECEMBER 1983

PLO Affairs

The evacuation of Palestinian forces from Tripoli by five Greek ships will begin on 18 December, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat told the Kuwaiti paper *AL-QABAS* according to KUNA. A Greek Government spokesman declared that the ships will pick up 'Arafat and his forces early on 19 December, according to Athens radio. The spokesman added that consultations with the U.S., French, Syrian, Israeli, Italian, British, and Lebanese governments secured guarantees for the safety of the Greek ships and crews and for 'Arafat and his men.

Israeli "political circles" stressed that Israel has given "no guarantees or any other promises regarding the Greek ships," according to Jerusalem radio. The "very least" that Israel expects from those assisting 'Arafat is that they require him to lay down his arms and promise that he and his people will never again engage in terrorist activity, Defense Minister Moshe Arens declared in remarks broadcast by the radio. Unless 'Arafat satisfies these conditions, Arens said, no assistance should be given to him.

Lebanon

Military Situation — The Lebanese Government and the main opposition coalition have agreed to a "permanent and serious cease-fire" to take effect immediately, AFP reported on 16 December citing an opposition source. The new cease-fire announcement followed further fighting around Beirut the previous day in which U.S. warships again shelled hostile positions, according to Beirut radio. The battleship *New Jersey* participated in the shelling, during which U.S. warships destroyed a number of positions in the mountains around Beirut occupied by the Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) and its allies, Radio Free Lebanon reported. Meanwhile, AFP reported that three French soldiers were injured in a bomb attack in Beirut and confirmed the deaths of two French soldiers earlier. The headquarters of the British contingent was hit by a rocket but no casualties were sustained, Radio Free Lebanon reported.

Political Developments — Lebanon hopes to declare the date and venue of the second round of the National Dialogue Conference soon, President Amin al-Jumayyil announced in a statement in London broadcast by Beirut radio. The Lebanese hope the second round will lay the basis for complete reconciliation and will "define the prerogatives" of an expanded national unity government that will carry out internal reforms and arrange the withdrawal of the Multinational Force after the departure of non-Lebanese occupation forces, he added.

Dayr al-Qamar — The IDF completed the first stage of the evacuation of Dayr al-Qamar, transporting about 2,000 Phalangist militiamen from the town in IDF trucks while 500 Christian refugees left in buses, according to Jerusalem television and radio reports. However, the Lebanese Government did not fulfill its commitment to issue an official announcement presenting the evacuation as an agreement achieved in the deliberations of the joint Israeli-Lebanese military committee, the television asserted.

Syria

The head of Lebanese Army intelligence arrived in Damascus for talks "shrouded in absolute secrecy," Radio Monte Carlo reported. Saudi mediator Rafiq al-Hariri also came to Damascus, while presidential envoy Donald Rumsfeld held further talks with Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam before departing, the radio said.

Iran-Iraq War

Iraqi aircraft raided Iranian targets in Dehloran and Ilam on 15 December, an Iraqi military spokesman announced in a statement broadcast by Baghdad Voice of the Masses radio. The attacks were in response to Iran's failure to respond to peace efforts, its continued shelling of Iraqi civilian targets, and its responsibility for "heinous crimes" against fraternal Arab countries, the spokesman stated. Confirming the air raids, IRNA reported that 10 civilians were hospitalized after the attack on Ilam but that no casualties were caused in Dehloran.

A joint revolution guards-Armed Forces statement reported by Tehran radio warned that Iranian soldiers and revolution guards will "take revenge on all the vile agents of East and West for the blood of these martyrs." Meanwhile, the Iranian deputy foreign minister told the Kuwaiti charge d'affaires in Tehran that Kuwait should condemn the Iraqi missile attacks, which were launched on the "pretext" of defending Kuwait in an attempt to create more tension in the region, the radio noted.

Jordan

Dialogue between the two superpowers is necessary in order to tackle the peace process in the Middle East and the European countries should actively encourage Soviet participation in order to avoid the increasing threat of polarization and a "tragic explosion," King Husayn told the European Parliament in a speech broadcast by Amman radio. The king criticized U.S. "reluctance" to work "firmly and immediately" toward establishing peace and asserted that the recent U.S.-Israeli strategic agreements will result in U.S. funding for Israeli settlements in the occupied Arab territories, thereby "flouting the form and substance" of President Reagan's peace plan. Jordan had pinned "great hopes" on the Reagan plan, he added, but the vitality of the initiative has disappeared and the momentum for peace has dwindled.

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'Arafat: Tripoli Evacuation Set for 18 Dec

LD160922 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0823 GMT 16 Dec 83

[Text] Kuwait, 16 Dec (KUNA) — PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat was quoted here as saying that the operation of his and his forces departure from Tripoli in northern Lebanon will begin Sunday. *AL-QABAS* quoted 'Arafat as saying that the five Greek ships that will transport his men to Yemen and Tunisia will be arriving in Tripoli Sunday. He pointed out that the United States, which had asked Israel not to hinder the departure of 'Arafat and his forces, has refused to give "public guarantees." However, he did not say whether it had given secret guarantees.

'Arafat said that he received a message from Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou yesterday informing him that the Greek Government has received the requested guarantees to start the evacuation operation. He said that operations room will be set up with the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Navy and in coordination with the United Nations and the French, who undertook to secure protection for the Greek ships during their sailing from Tripoli.

'Arafat said that the Israelis refused to give guarantees but that Syria has agreed to guarantees, as has the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. He pointed out that Egyptian President Husni Mubarak said he was extremely happy with these guarantees and that he had initiated many contacts in this respect.

U.S., France To Protect Ships

LD160935 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0853 GMT 16 Dec 83

[Excerpts] Athens, 16 Dec (KUNA) — A spokeman for the Greek Merchant Marine said here last night that U.S. and French warships will protect five Greek ships during the evacuation of PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and his loyal Palestinian fighters together with their families from Tripoli in northern Lebanon and their journey to Tunisia and the YAR. The spokesman said the escort operation will start when the five Greek ships meet the escort ships in the Cyprus port of Larnaca, and will escort them to Tripoli and continue to do so until two of the ships reach Tunisia and the other three the YAR.

France Promises Protection

NC151115 Paris AFP in English 1108 GMT 15 Dec 83

[Text] Tripoli, Lebanon, Dec 15 (AFP) — France has promised "complete protection" for the withdrawal of Palestinian Liberation Organization fighters from Tripoli, a well-informed Palestinian source said here today. According to the source, PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat received a message to that effect from French Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson last night. The source would not give further details on the nature of the protection and whether it included air cover.

Greek authorities are awaiting security guarantees to send four ships to Tripoli to transport some 4,000 surrounded PLO guerrillas loyal to Mr. 'Arafat to North Yemen and Algeria.

Wounded To Leave 17 Dec

AU151519 Rome ANSA in English 1507 GMT 15 Dec 83

[Text] (ANSA) — Beirut, December 15 — About a hundred seriously wounded Palestinian combatants will be evacuated from the Lebanese port town of Tripoli on Saturday aboard the Italian Motor-ferry *Appia* on Saturday, qualified Italian and Palestinian sources said here this morning. The *Appia* will take them to Cyprus where they will be handed over to the Palestinian Red Crescent which will transport them to another country, probably Egypt.

Many of the wounded are aged 15-20 and are in a very serious condition, needing intensive care.

The evacuation is being organized by the Italian Embassy here and the International Red Cross with the Palestinian Red Crescent.

Greek Source Cited

NC151715 Paris AFP in English 1708 GMT 15 Dec 83

[Text] Athens, Dec 15 (AFP) — The evacuation aboard five Greek ferry boats of Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) leader Yasir 'Arafat and his followers currently trapped in northern Lebanon will begin Monday, an official source said here today. The source added that the five ships would leave port tomorrow for the northern Lebanese city of Tripoli where Mr. 'Arafat and 4,000 of his fighters have been battling PLO dissidents since early November.

Passage between the Greek port of Piraievs and Tripoli usually takes at least 45 hours, meaning that the five vessels are not expected to arrive off northern Lebanon until Sunday, shipping sources indicated.

Al-Hasan on Tripoli Departure Arrangements

PM151621 London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 15 Dec 83 p 1

[Mahir 'Uthman report: "Khalid al-Hasan: Arrangements for Departure From Tripoli Completed; Constructive Talks Held With King Husayn"]

[Excerpt] London — Fatah Central Committee member Khalid al-Hasan has confirmed in reply to a question by *ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT* that arrangements for the departure of Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat and the Palestinian fighters from Tripoli have been completed.

ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that, during his talks with senior French officials, Khalid al-Hasan was in constant contact with 'Arafat in Tripoli and with officials in the Saudi capital as well as with the PLO office in Athens in order to coordinate arrangements.

With regard to the talks he held with King Husayn in the French capital the day before yesterday (Tuesday), Khalid al-Hasan

said: "They were frank and constructive talks that dealt with future bilateral relations in light of the inevitable common destiny of the Jordanians and Palestinians. The talks also dealt with evaluating the present stage and the dangers of the present vacuum in the political field."

Al-Hasan expressed the belief that the Jordanian monarch's visit to Paris was successful.

Al-Hasan on Tuesday night (after his talks with King Husayn and the Jordanian monarch's talks with President Mitterrand) met in the Elysee Palace with Mr (Federain), the French President's diplomatic adviser.

It is worth noting that this was the first public meeting between a French official and a Palestinian official on this level, although unpublicized meetings were previously held on various levels between French and Palestinian officials.

ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that the talks mainly dealt with the question of the departure of the Palestinian forces from Tripoli, as well as other general topics.

Asked whether he was discussing any new diplomatic initiative regarding the Middle East crisis, he said that for the immediate future the French attitude is concerned with the Palestinian forces' departure from Tripoli.

'Arafat Comments on Post-Tripoli Prospects

GF161100 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0940 GMT 16 Dec 83

[Text] Beirut, 16 Dec (WAKH) — PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat has called on the Arabs to wake up. I hope they will not leave the Palestinians alone in the battle, he said. 'Arafat strongly attacked all those who call for replacing him and said: 'Arafat did not come by an Arab decision in orderto leave through an Arab decision. He came through Palestinian democracy, he said.

'Arafat, who was speaking to the WAKH correspondent who visited him in the operations room in the Az-Zahriyah suburb in Tripoli, expressed readiness to leave Tripoli as courageously as he entered it. However, he called for international guarantees so his fighters will not be exposed to the fire of the Israelis who lurk near the Tripoli coast. 'Arafat asked: Isn't it a farce that Syria besieges us from the land and Israel besieges us from the sea? Regarding the guarantees, 'Arafat said: I am waiting for these guarantees, but so far none of the superpowers has indicated that it is ready to provide such guarantees.

In reply to a question on where he will go after Tripoli, 'Arafat said: To my headquarters, of course. The fighters will go to the bases they came from — San'a', Tunisia, Algeria, and Iraq. I am tremendously proud of my people, who embody the legend of the phoenix in modern history and are a symbol of the Spartans. The Palestinian people held steadfast alone so that all Arabs would not fall into what is called the Israeli era, he said. Many invitations have been extended to me from my brothers the Arab kings and presidents and I will respond to all of them, he added.

'Arafat expressed his hope that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad recovers. Despite everything, I wish him a prompt recovery. I am still extending my hand to Syria to confront the Zionist enemy with it and in the same trench, he said.

Talking about the dissidents, 'Arafat described them as traitors. I will not honor them by talking about them becayse they are Trojan horses, he said.

Regarding what he sees on the horizon after the Tripoli battle, the Palestinian leader said: The Tripoli battle has strengthened our ranks anew, and in spite of the fact that this battle has taken so much from us, it has made us firmer in our action. After Tripoli, we will call on all Palestinian institutions to meet to implement the steps and programs which the Palestinian revolution can adopt, he added.

About the so-called Jordanian alternative, 'Arafat said: We will want a serious dialogue that will ultimately lead to confederation with Jordan. Why are there people who only look at the bad sides of each step the PLO makes? The Central Committee recommended this dialogue and 'Arafat only implements the Central Committee's program, he replied.

Clashes Reported in Tripoli Area 15 Dec

NC151333 Paris AFP in English 1327 GMT 15 Dec 83

[Text] Tripoli, Lebanon, Dec 15 (AFP) — Rocket-propelled grenades were seen exploding around Yasir 'Arafat's headquarters here in a resumption of violent clashes in this northern Lebanese port city today. Fighting appeared concentrated around the Az-Zahariyah neighborhood at the northern edge of the city where the besieged Palestine Liberation Organization chief has his headquarters.

Syrian-backed dissidents were firing at 'Arafat strongholds from positions north of the city, while Moslem and pro-Syrian 'Alawite militia clashed in the nearby sectors of At-Tabbanah and Ba'l Muhsin, northeast of Tripoli.

Shelling was intense by mid-afternoon, and central Tripoli was shaken by the noise of cannon and machine-gun fire.

Sniping Continues

NC160841 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 16 Dec 83

[Text] The clashes between loyalists and dissidents that began at 0600 today in Tripoli stopped at 0900. The combatants used rockets and medium- and light-caliber weapons at the axes of At-Tabbanah, Ba'l Muhsin, Al-Qubbah, Al-Baqqar, Al-Malluli, and Az-Zahiriyah. Sniper fire now reigns supreme on these axes.

Communique on 14 Dec Israeli Attack

JN151636 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 15 Dec 83

[Text] The general command of the Palestinian revolution forces issued the following statement last night:

At 1900 today, 14 December 1983, Israeli naval units attacked the city of Tripoli. The Israeli Navy shelled Al-Mina', the quarantine center, and [name indistinct]. Israeli helicopter gunships attempted to strafe other areas. Our ground resistance confronted the attacking Israeli naval units and helicopters and forced them to retreat out to sea. The clashes lasted 1 and 1/2 hours. Revolution until victory!

Aden VOP Denounces Moves To Freeze PLO

GF160611 Aden Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1820 GMT 15 Dec 83

[News analysis by Faysal Hawrani: "Plowing in the Palestinian Field"]

[Excerpts] The Palestinian arena has been deprived of any initiative (?for ages). Joint Arab action has become frozen as it had never been except on rare occasions. Since the outbreak of the crisis, there has been no meeting of Arab foreign ministers, although events warranted such a meeting. The expected Arab summit was not held and was postponed time and again. The seven-member committee, which called for the Rabat Fes summit plan, began to dwindle, and similar Arab efforts, which usually accompany the opening of the UN General Assembly, also began to diminish. In other words, everything in the arena of joint Arab action became more confused than it appeared to be. It seemed as if many Arab parties were awaiting the outcome of the conflict in the Palestinian arena to give full range for joint Arab action that fits this outcome.

Some expected the fall of the Palestinian leadership, which would result in the surfacing of a more convenient leadership, according to them, that would go to the summit or participate in other joint action. Others awaited the result of the crisis to see how the new wind would blow. But the crisis culminated in the attack against the camps and Tripoli and in the use of the most advanced and deadliest land weapons available without leading to the fall of the leadership or even shaking its popular and political status, and the most important expectations of these people were not fulfilled. Nor was the goal of those who were (?supplying weapons and extending support).

For all people, the position of the PLO, and that of Yasir 'Arafat in particular, is so solid that it cannot be shaken by the uproar of those who made claims beyond their capabilities. These people became far less than they were thought to be. Therefore, fighting against the PLO's sovereignty, regardless of the results, is a waste of time, efforts, and capabilities in national measures. Those who had the bitter experience, motivated by their whims or ill intentions, did nothing more than freeze the PLO, propose their initiatives, and freeze joint Arab action, reducing its value and freedom of movement. They did nothing but harm their reputation and position and became an enemy of the Palestinian people.

Those who plowed outside the Palestinian field yielded nothing more than a (?small reward). What is beneficial is to plow inside the Palestinian field. What a high price the Palestinian people paid in the past months for the mistake of a group of its sons who neglected this (?clear fact).

'Arafat Denounces Bombings in Kuwait

LD151836 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 15 Dec 83

[Text] His highness the heir apparent and chairman of the Council of Ministers, Shaykh Sa'd al-Abdallah as-Salim as-Sabah, this evening received a telephone call from his brother, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Araftat, during which he declared the Palestine revolution's denunciation and condemnation of the criminal acts to which the country was subjected on Monday. He affirmed the Palestine revolution's solidarity and standing with Kuwait in facing these criminal elements. His highness the heir apparent and chairman of the Council of Ministers expressed to Yasir 'Arafat Kuwait's gratitude and appreciation for the Palestine revolution's stand and its solidarity with Kuwait and its people.

Habib Chatti Message Condemns Kuwait Blasts

LD152027 Kuwait KUNA in English 1650 GMT 15 Dec 83

[Text] Kuwait, Dec 15 (KUNA) — Secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization (ICO), Habib Chatti, expressed condemnation Thursday for the explosions that took place in Kuwait last Monday. Chatti said, in a letter sent to deputy premier and foreign and information minister, Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad, that these acts of sabotage in Kuwait do not serve but our enemies, and affect the reputation of the Arab and Islamic nation. "I am convinced that this country will stand firm in confronting these acts, and will continue being faithful for the principles which it chooses for itself", Chatti added.

Sheikh Sabah also received a similar message from Director General of the Arab Fund for Social and Economic Development Dr. Muhammad al-Imadi who said that the fund was "shocked" by the explosion Kuwait witnessed last Monday. Al-Imadi said Kuwait was known by its firm national stand and its support for the Arab and Islamic causes.

PFLP Spokesman on 'Arafat, PLO Rift

LD151549 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1415 GMT 15 Dec 83

[Text] Kuwait, 15 December (KUNA) — Bassam Abu Sharif, PFLP Political Bureau member and official spokesman, has declared that the PLO is continuing its struggle and will not waver. The occupied Palestinian territory will witness further blows dealt to the enemy in accordance with plans to escalate military operations against him.

Abu Sharif was speaking at a press conference at the KUNA offices here at noon today. He said that the PLO was the identity of the Palestinian people, and those who imagine it to be a mere camp, a village, or a town are mistaken.

He said that the PLO has the right to feel proud of two things: its realization of the Palestinian identity that was obliterated in the early sixties and its ability to fight for 80 days in Beirut.

He called on the forces of the Palestinian-Syrian-Lebanese triangle to close ranks in the face of the dangerous plan brought about by the new relationship between the United States and the Zionist entity particularly following the recent meeting between Shamir and Reagan in Washington. He said that cooperation between the revolution and the Lebanese Nationalist Forces has been daily bearing fruit on the soil of Lebanon.

Referring to the question of PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat' departure from Tripoli in the present conditions, he said this was not possible so long as Israeli warships remained at sea. He added that the Tripoli blockade "cannot be broken by any protection given by France." He demanded that the 'Arafat forces depart only for the frontlines and the enemy.

Abu Sharif said that the use of the *New Jersey* for the first time since the Vietnam war to bombard Lebanon indicates the nature of the American intentions and sounds the alarm for to face the danger.

He declared that it is impossible for 'Arafat to fail following the great popularity he has gained through the battles in Tripoli and his presence in northern Lebanon.

He affirmed the PFLP's rejection of any change within the PLO not accomplished through the PLO's legitimate institutions headed by the PNC. He added that the "organization rejects any attempt at change by coupist means." He said it is the PNC that elects the Executive Committee, which in turn elects its president, and "we support it."

He declared that the PFLP,within its own perspective, will stand up to any error committed by the Palestinian leadership. There will be no attitude based on "forgiving past errors." There will, however, be a program for learning lessons so that national unity can be realized and the PLO and its national resolutions protected. He explained the PFLP's opposition to the convening of the PNC in the present circumstances, saying that such a meeting will only help to perpetuate division and will not act as a catalyst for unity and the ending of differences.

The PFLP, he said, had hoped that its joint efforts with the DFLP would succeed in bringing about a cease-fire and solving the problems of the Palestinians by the Palestinians themselves, "but our efforts have failed to meet with any response from those who preferred to resort to arms."

He affirmed that the USSR and the Eastern bloc support the unity of the PLO and its legitimate leadership and the preservation of its institutions.

Abu Sharif arrived here yesterday from Delhi after meeting with Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. He will later leave for Damascus.

PSF Voices Support for Syria, Raps U.S.

JN151653 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 15 Dec 83

[Text] Damascus — The Palestinian Struggle Front [PSF] has strongly condemned U.S. aggression and provocations against the Syrian Arab forces in Lebanon and expressed its absolute support for Syria in repulsing any aggression. In a statement today, PSF Political Bureau member Khalid 'Abd al-Majid expressed the Palestinian masses' pride in the leading pan-Arab role that Syria plays in confronting the Israeli and U.S. aggression and provocations. He considers the French role in the region as part of the U.S. plans and as falling within the framework of the imperialist plans and schemes against the Arab masses' aspriations.

He stressed the importance of Arab cohesion in order to foil any aggressive attempts and to confront them firmly and strongly. He also stressed the importance of the cooperation and support being offered by the socialist countries, foremost of which is the friendly Soviet Union.

Iraqi-Jordanian-Palestinian Summit Predicted

NC151645 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1630 GMT 15 Dec 83

[Text] London, 15 Dec (MENA) — In its edition which will appear on Saturday, the day after tomorrow, the London-based magazine *AL-MAJALLAH* cites highly placed Arab sources as saying that the stage following the departure of 'Arafat and his loyalists from Tripoli will witness Iraqi-Palestinian-Jordanian coordination at the highest level in a bid to revive the eastern front. The magazine says preparations are under way to hold a tripartite summit with Yasir 'Arafat, King Husayn of Jordan, and Iraqi President Saddam Husayn immediately after the departure of 'Arafat and his men from Tripoli.

'Arafat To Reveal As-Sadr Kidnap Details

NC151433 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1415 GMT 15 Dec 83

[Text] PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has been quoted as having said in private meetings that, after his departure from Tripoli with his fighters, he will disclose important secrets on the fate of Imam as-Sadr [Shi'ite spiritual leader who disappeared in Libya a few years ago]. He will reveal the way he was kidnapped with his two companions as well as the involvement of two Arab states in the operation.

BAHRAIN

Amir Addresses Citizens on National Day

GF160806 Manama Television Service in Arabic 0630 GMT 16 Dec 83

[Speech delivered by Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, amir of Bahrain, on Bahraini National Day on 16 December in Manama — recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Noble citizens: It is a fateful day in our history to meet all full of sincerity and loyalty to our dear homeland and linked together by determination for a new bright year that will add to our country more strength and might based on comprehensive action and accomplishments of civilization and that will yield for Bahrain more through the productivity of sincere Bahraini citizens.

The economic sector expands daily, thus making Bahrain a reputable financial center. Despite the slump in the world's economy, Bahrain has been able to achieve a good rate of development. Its economic structure has been diversified through studied plans within development plans on all industrial, educational, agricultural, health, population, and cultural levels.

The security and peace our country enjoy, which are based on a society of love and fraternity, are the cover protecting our accomplishments, assisted and consolidated by an expanding Defense Force, which is assimilating modern arms and training in order to safeguard and protect the homeland's security. It also constitutes an efficient force, along with its sister GCC countries, to protect the region from threats and dangers. This is an accomplishment worthy of pride that was achieved by our wise government with its sincere men.

Noble people, our extensive hopes are limitless. They extend forward to converge with the expectations and aspirations of the region's peoples to feed all into its integration with the long past and the present and wide, bright, and prosperous future, which is embodied in the GCC, on a threshold of a new history to reach joint goals. The GCC countries met in harmony with their common history and creed, out of their homogeneity in values and ideologies, out of their common goals and fate. The accomplishments so far achieved through the march of the GCC are a new example of cooperation and integration within constructive, sincere action that fulfills the aspirations of the region's peoples for progress, prosperity, security, peace, might, and strength. This edifice of a common Gulf society will be expanded on the basis of modernization and by looking to the future with serious and confident action and clear vison in order to add another brick to the edifice of the solidarity of their Arab nation and confirm the strength for their Islamic society.

Our loyal people, the Iraqi-Iranian war has been a source of extreme concern for the region, with its depletion of the resources and the killing of citizens of the two countries and the increased the tension in the Gulf region — which gives foreign powers the opportunity to spread their control over the region. We are hopeful that reason and logic will prevail with regard to the peace calls — to which Iraq has responded — in order to stop this fighting between two neighboring Muslim countries, which has entered its fourth year, and to put an end to this depletion of human and material energies and conserve them for consolidating Gulf and Islamic efforts to face challenges.

Noble citizens, Bahrain's affiliation with its Arab nation is a source of pride and is an inevitable fact of history and fate. We are committed to its causes and share its goals in the ceaseless efforts to mobilize Arab energies and employ them in confronting the Zionist enemy and regaining the usurped rights. We can achieve progress through serious action to consolidate Arab solidarity within the Arab League Charter, which is a positive means to enable the nation to face all challenges and threats.

We are saddened by the rifts and differences afflicting our nation at this stage. We are also shocked by the regrettable events going on the Palestinian arena, which constitute a threat to the Palestinian cause and abort its accomplishments. That is why we stand in full support, with all our potential, for the Arab efforts being made to stop this depletion of Arab energies. We also support with all our means the sincere active mediation the GCC is carrying out to stop Palestinian bloodshed and to resolve our problems in the spirit of a team with a common fate and goal.

Our lofty people, Bahrain's reaction to events extends far beyond local and regional dimensions to reach intentional horizons. It is tied to the Islamic world by an unslipping holy knot and by sharing its aspirations and expectations. Bahrain is also committed to its clear stand of establishing relations with the world's countries on the basis of equality and mutual respect, out of our firm belief that security and peace are the foundation on which humanity builds its progress. We always try to consolidate this peace and security and we respond positively to all those support international legitimacy and try to enhance right, just, and peace inthe world.

With God's blessings, continue your march of progress, assisted by God's help and led firmly through His guidance for more prosperity and progress. God's peace, mercy, and benedictions be upon you.

Prime Minister Comments on Arab Issues

GF151708 Manama WAKH in English 1612 GMT 15 Dec 83

[Text] Ash-Shariqah, 15 Dec (WAKH) — Bahraini Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah affirmed that cooperation and coordination among the AGCC states is an indication of serious joint Gulf action. It is also an indication of the AGCC states awareness of the cooperation and solidarity concept for the prosperity and security of Gulf nationals. In an interview with *AL-KHALIJ* newspaper to be published tomorrow in its special edition on Bahrain's national day celebrations H.E. Shaykh Khalifah expressed satisfaction over steps made by the Gulf Cooperation Council.

H.E. Shaykh Khalifah said that rifts among Arab countries is a result of ignoring the basic facts "which should be the base for every Arab political move." He said that the basic fact is the Palestinian cause which is the core of the conflict in the Middle East. "Any solution to the problem should take into consideration the Palestinian people legitimate rights," he said.

He said that Arab solidarity should have a basic strategy binding all Arabs in all circumstances. He referred to efforts exerted by Saudi Arabia on Palestinian and Lebanese arenas and at all Arab levels. He expressed regret over the inter-Palestinian fighting and called upon international power to contribute in finding solutions to the regions crises.

H.E. Shaykh Khalifah said that Bahrain occupies a major position among world countries because of its stability and freedom.

KUWAIT

New Security Measures To Be Instituted

GF151132 Doha QNA in Arabic 0950 GMT 15 Dec 83

[Text] Kuwait, 15 Dec (QNA) — The Kuwaiti newspaper *AL-QABAS* today quoted parliamentary sources as saying that the Kuwaiti Government agreed with the Kuwaiti National Assembly to implement "certain measures" to go into effect gradually in order to tackle the new situation created by the bombing incidents that shook Kuwait on Monday.

The paper did not elaborate on the nature of these measures but said that they were undertaken to preserve the security and stability of Kuwait and protect the lives of the innocent citizens. The paper indicated that the government promised the National Assembly to present periodical reports and recommendations on every result reached through following up the bombing incidents, which affected seven national and foreign institutions.

The paper also pointed out that specific instructions were issued to Kuwait municipality dealing with the need to be vigilant with regard to all cars parked for a long time in suspicious places and to report such incidents.

Travel Restrictions Eased

GF151504 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 14 Dec 83 p 1

[Muhammad al-Barjis report]

[Excerpt] Lieutenant Colonel Ahmad al-Rajib, director of the public relations at the Interior Ministry, told *AL-QABAS* yesterday that the travel restrictions adopted the day before yesterday on a number of nationalities have been rescinded. He said: Inspection measures for those visiting and departing Kuwait will intensify. The issue should not be taken lightly now.

PDRY

Chairman on Economic Development, Other Topics

GF160551 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 15 Dec 83

[Interview with 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, and chairman of the Council of Ministers, with Beirut newspaper *AN-NIDA'*, reprinted in 15 december issue of PDRY newspaper *14 OCTOBER* — date and place of interview not given]

[Excerpts] *AN-NIDA'*: At the beginning of the third decade of the Yemeni revolution, in your view, what are the first tasks of the PDRY, its party and revolution, and what are the most significant economic and social development difficulties of the country?

'Ali Nasir Muhammad: The constant development of our national economy, as defined by the basic directions of the extraordinary general conference of our party and the party program, is regarded one of our most significant tasks in order to develop our national economy and develop and exploit our natural resources. In our view, by solving the economic issue, by the programmed development of our national economy; by diligent work to invest our petroleum, minerals, and other wealth; and by serious work to develop, commission, and improve the administration of industrial and agricultural installations, we can strengthen the basis of our progressive regime and contribute to the strengthening of the country's defense capability. At the same time, we can work to expand the citizens' participation in political life through their popular organizations, their elected popular councils, and their other democratic committees.

Certainly, we know that every great work encounters many difficulties before it is accomplished. During recent years, we faced a number of difficulties, including normal difficulties resulting from our scarcity of resources, our lack of manpower, and the inadequacy of the homeland's cadres; other difficulties resulted from various-sided conspiracies and hostilities by imperialist and reactionary circles. But all these will make us more determined to resume the course of our revolution, depending on our party's firm method and our national, pan-Arab, and internationalist choices which were defined by our party in its extraordinary general conference and in its political program, which clearly define the comprehensive strategy of the path of the national democratic revolution which the PDRY is following.

AN-NIDA': The past weeks witnessed Arab contacts to bring views together in preparation for the convocation of the Arab summit in Riyadh. In your view, what are the necessary conditions for holding this summit and what are the obstacles which should be overcome?

'Ali Nasir Muhammad: Before contemplating an Arab summit, we have to ask ourselves what previous summits achieved in implementing their resolutions and the parties' adherence to these resolutions. We support the idea of holding the summit and all collective Arab action to serve the Arab people's interests, which takes into consideration that we are facing the threat of U.S.-Israeli occupation of Lebanon. When the conference is held under such circumstances, it will probably succeed because we do not want a conference to fail or to lead to the loss of the Arab people's confidence in such conferences. I draw this from our previous conferences and out of the anxiousness for a united Arab stand in the service of our people's interest and in defense of their security and sovereignty against the imperialist threats in Lebanon. I say frankly that after the Israeli occupation of Lebanon and massacres of the Palestinian, and after the entry of the U.S. forces, which also bomb some Lebanese areas, the Arab masses need a united and courageous Arab stand against the arrogant U.S.-Israeli enemy. Such action will ensure the success of the next Arab summit and will even make all international parties respect us and show more sympathy to our cause.

AN-NIDA': In the past years, the PDRY made noticeable moves in an effort to unite the Arab forces and stand in the face of the imperialist-Zionist assault in the region. How far did these moves succeed and do you have any comments on (?resuming) this mission?

'Ali Nasir Muhammad: [Words indistinct] it is natural that some difficulties arise. However, this is no place to talk about these difficulties. We will continue our efforts to unify the stand of the progressive and nationalist Arab forces and their efforts of struggle against the dangerous assualt on the region. We are hopeful that a tumultous Arab uprising will take place to face these threats and to resist the U.S.-Zionist plots in the Arab region.

AN-NIDA': What about your relations with the Soviet Union?

'Ali Nasir Muhammad: I assure you that our relations with the Soviet Union have a special importance. In fact, they are distinguished relations. During the important meeting recently between Comrade Andropov and me in the Soviet Union, we reached important results in this respect. The results of our talks were received with satisfaction by our parties and peoples and progressive public opinion in the Arab homeland. We are very pleased over the progress of our strategic relations with the Soviet Union because these relations are not based on narrow views and selfishness, but on principles of international proletarian solidarity, which is now clear to all.

We continue to consolidate our friendship with the Soviet Union in various fields. The Soviet Union is a friend who has proved in all circumstances that he is honest in supporting the struggle of our Yemeni people and Arab peoples and in his resolute defense of world peace, protection of humanity against nuclear war, and in his support for the struggling Arab peoples for their national liberation, economic progress, and social development.

YAR Information Minister Arrives 15 Dec

GF151430 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 15 Dec 83

[Text] Brother Hasan Ahmad al-Lawzi, information and culture minister in the northern part of homeland, arrived in Aden this morning on a brief visit to the northern part. ANA reported that Brother al-Lawzi is carrying a letter for Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council, and chairman of the Council of Ministers, from his Brother 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress in the northern part of the homeland, dealing with coordination issues between both parts and ways to strengthen them and issues of mutual interest.

He was received by Brother Rashid Muhammad Thabit, member of the Central Committee and minister of culture and tourism and, Muhammad 'Abduh Shitta, chairman of the unity affairs office.

Chairman Receives Message From Indira Gandhi

GF151940 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 15 Dec 83

[Text] Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council, and chairman of the Council of Ministers, has received a written message from Indira Gandhi, Indian prime minister and chairman of the nonaligned countries, dealing with current developments in Lebanese arena.

UAE

Oil Minister on OPEC Policy, Development

GF160626 Dubayy KHALEEJ TIMES in English 15 Dec 83 p 1

[By staff reporter]

[Excerpt] Both the UAE's and OPEC's determination to maintain the current OPEC price of $29 a barrel was reaffirmed by Dr Mani ibn Sa'id al-Utaybah, minister of petroleum, at a press conference yesterday in Abu Dhabi held to mark the 20th anniversary of the first shipment of crude from Jabal az-Zannah.

Looking to next year Dr al-Utaybah foresaw the world oil demand for the first quarter of 1984 as 18.4 million bpd, second and third quarter as 16.5 to 17 million bpd, and fourth quarter as 19 million bpd, averaging at 17.5 million bpd, the current OPEC top limit.

In spite of the strong downward pressure in the world oil market, OPEC is taking the pressure and keeping the price steady, said Dr al-Utaybah. "OPEC is a dam," he said, describing OPEC's determination to hold the price of a barrel at $29.

OPEC was asking the non-OPEC oil producing countries not to go very low with their prices and to coordinate with OPEC, he said. OPEC was ready to be the swing producer, cutting production in a full market, as was happening now, to maintain the price, he said.

He pointed out that if OPEC raised its prices, it would suffer a fall in demand as the buyers would seek other cheaper crudes, or other non-oil sources of energy. Therefore the $29 price is the "red-line" he said, below which and above which the price should not go for the present.

It was misleading to talk of price rises, he said, while OPEC was struggling to defend the present price. There could be no talk of price rises until the market allowed them. He added that when they did come the aim should be for a steady policy, avoiding shocks to both producers and buyers.

He said that between December 1979 and November 1980 OPEC raised the price from $12 to $30 and that this extreme increase had caused a natural reaction in the market resulting in the present situation.

Dr al-Utaybah thought that the OPEC quotas could be re-examined in the fourth quarter of 1984, if the market followed expectations. During the first quarter he saw demand at 900,000 bpd over the OPEC total quota of 17.5 million bpd, and this would draw down the stocks of oil in the world, allowing OPEC in the winter of 1984 to pick up the rise in demand.

This rise he saw as going up to 19 million bpd, and at that time it would be possible to analyse the OPEC quotas for production, while still maintaining the same price of $29 a barrel. He said that OPEC could even go below the 17.5 million production limit to defend the price, if necessary.

He emphasised that even the system of the production quotas was first introduced the UAE had accepted a greater cut then any other country for the sake of OPEC. This would be recognised when the quotas were raised, giving the UAE priority in any increases.

Describing the UAE oil policy, Dr al-Utaybah said it was designed to realise the maximum benefits of the oil revenue for the people of the UAE. Trees, houses, schools, ports, hospitals, roads, all used revenue from oil, he said.

For the last 20 years oil had been at the service of the people, helping development, and it would continue to do so, he said, since the UAE hoped that the last barrel of oil from the Gulf would be from the UAE, "giving us a lot of time," he said.

Mubarak Message Conveyed to Iraqi President
NC151308 Cairo MENA in English 1220 GMT 15 Dec 83

[Text] Baghdad, Dec. 15 (MENA) — Deputy Speaker of the Egyptian People's Assembly Mukhtar 'Abd al-Hamid said following his meeting today with President Saddam Husayn that he conveyed to the Iraqi president a verbal message from President Husni Mubarak. He said that President Husayn also entrusted him with a verbal message to President Mubarak. The Iraqi president paid tribute to the Egyptian stance vis-avis the current issues at the Arab and international arenas. 'Abd al-Hamid said that President Husayn lauded the Egyptian stance vis-a-vis the Iraq-Iran war and expressed appreciation of President Mubarak's policy at the home and foreign levels. He added that President Husayn also praised the effective role of the Egyptian workers in various development projects in Iraq. He pointed out that President Husayn issued instructions that the Egyptian workers [words indsitinct] the same rights as the Iraqis.

Cypriot House President, Delegation Depart
NC151233 Cairo MENA in English 1206 GMT 15 Dec 83

[Text] Cairo, Dec 15 (MENA) — Speaker of the Cypriot Parliament Yeoryios Ladhas left here today for home with his accompanying delegation winding up a five-day visit to Egypt. In a pre-departure statement Ladhas said talks with senior Egyptian officials had been fruitful and constructive, and were held in cordial and friendly atmosphere. Such meetings help foster the present bilateral friendly relations and pave the way for the full restoration of diplomatic ties between the two countries. He expressed hope for Egypt's prosperity and peace. Speaker of the People's Assembly Dr Kamil Laylah, who saw Ladhas off at the airport, said their talks dealt with the feasibility of fostering bialteral ties, the Cypriot crisis and Egypt's stance in this respect. Dr Laylah described the talks as very cordial and fruitful, adding that bilateral relations were, and still are, good in all fields.

SAWT ASH-SHA'B Interviews Foreign Minister 'Ali
JN151141 Amman SAWT ASH-SHA'B in Arabic 15 Dec 83 pp 1, 14

["Text" of interview granted by Kamal Hasan 'Ali, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, to *SAWT ASH-SHA'B* correspondent Hidayat 'Abd an-Nabi in Cairo — date not given]

[Excerpt] *SAWT ASH-SHA'B*: A few days ago, the PLO Executive Committee chairman stated his readiness to resume talks with Jordan's King Husayn. What do you have to say on this statement?

Kamal Hasan 'Ali: We welcome Yasir 'Arafat's state-ment, because if this happens, it will then be the only means for settling the Palestinian cause and the prelude to a just and comprehensive solution in the Middle East.

SAWT ASH-SHA'B: Is it still possible for PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat to consider the Jordanian-Palestinian option and accept President Reagan's initiative?

Kamal Hasan 'Ali: Yes, and I believe that this will be the practical solution for stimulating the cause, as the threats to this cause require speedy action by all, particularly the owners of this cause, to emerge from this crisis. The international support which the cause and the PLO have won over the years as a result of arduous efforts is currently being eroded and the situation in the occupied Arab territories is deteriorating rapidly. That's why an outlet must be sought.

We believe that the sound beginning for this will the resumption of the Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue. As for President Reagan's initiative, we believe that, in spite of our reservations toward it, it is the practical starting point for this move. What is important is that the PLO and Yasir 'Arafat make a move because if the current situation, with all its negative aspects, continues as it is, the Palestinian cause will be frozen and will be forgotten by the international community.

SAWT ASH-SHA'B: Do you think that Israel's naval blockade of Tripoli aims at foiling any Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue?

Kamal Hasan 'Ali: There is no doubt that Israel's siege of Tripoli is an additional obstacle Israel has placed along the path of solving the Palestine problem. Israel's settlement policy, its actions in the West Bank, and its current siege of Tripoli are not encouraging signs to the inhabitants of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, the PLO, or Jordan.

SAWT ASH-SHA'B: If a move is possible after the tragedy of Tripoli, will it be possible to reactivate the autonomy talks on the one hand, and the Egyptian-French draft resolution in 1984 on the other?

Kamal Hasan 'Ali: If Jordan and the PLO agree to resume dialogue and if an agreement is reached on joining the peace negotiations, it will then be possible to resume the autonomy talks, because in this case talks will be expanded to include the concerned Arab parties. As we have often said, the Egyptian-French draft resolution is on the agenda of the UN Security Council. But it is a matter of timing. Submitting it at the wrong time will risk failure. Those blaming us of not working in this direction should remember well that the failure to reach a unified Arab opinion about a unified method of action, the divisions within the PLO, and the PLO's failure to adopt a unified stand toward the method of action are all basic factors which led to the suspension of the Egyptian-French draft resolution and other initiatives, beginning with Reagan's initiative and ending with the Fes plan.

SAWT ASH-SHA'B: Will the recent events in Tripoli strengthen the Palestinian leaders in the West Bank and Gaza Strip in a manner that would allow them actual participation in the autonomy talks?

Kamal Hasan 'Ali: There is no doubt that the Palestinians in the occupied territories are suffering from feelings of frustration and despair after seeing what is happening inside the organization. They are suffering from the yoke of occupation with no ray of hope of a serious move toward rescuing them from this

occupation. The Palestinians inside and outside the occupied lands should agree among themselves and with the organization on the method of action toward a peaceful solution to the issue. They will then receive every possible aid and support from Egypt.

SAWT ASH-SHA'B: Does acceptance by the PLO and its legitimate leadership of the resolutions adopted by the Geneva Conference on Palestine mean that the PLO and its leadership have accepted the partitioning resolution?

Kamal Hasan 'Ali: Acceptance of the Geneva Conference resolutions is acceptance of all UN resolutions on the Palestine cause. It also means acceptance of the right of all countries in the region to live in peace within permanent and recognized borders in exchange for regaining the Palestinian people's inalienable rights, foremost being their rights to self- determination and establishment of their own state.

SAWT ASH-SHA'B: It is said that the cause of the recent Tripoli incidents is the need to chain the PLO's legitimate leadership, and even to sieze this leadership by force, so that the PLO will not benefit from the resolutions adopted by the Geneva Conference for Solidarity With the Palestine Cause. What is your comment, if this theory is correct, on who is responsible for implementing this scheme? Is it an outside scheme? Have the comrades -in-arms lost their way and unwittingly achieved their enemy's objectives, or have all parties agreed to liquidate the PLO?

Kamal Hasan 'Ali: It is obvious that whenever the organization begins to move toward a real and practical understanding of the situation, incidents and circumstances emerge to obstruct and abort this move whether they come from inside or outside the PLO. Incidents and developments have proved the existence of a plan to contain the PLO, and control and liquidate the freedom of the Palestinian decisionmaking. Tripoli's events have proved that some parties inside the PLO have sponsored and implemented this plan. There is no pan-Arab interest in liquidating and dividing the PLO, because this will create negative and harmful repercussions on the Palestine issue. Those who are trying to weaken the PLO and its legitimacy aim in fact at liquidating the Palestine cause itself. It is regrettable that comrades-in-arms themselves are achieving what Israel failed to achieve through its invasion of Lebanon — striking at and weakening the PLO.

SAWT ASH-SHA'B: What is Your Excellency's comment on the Saudi crown prince's statements criticizing the PLO's comrades-in- arms for saying that the Arab nation had not done enough for the Palestine cause which had resulted in fighting between the comrades- in-arms?

Kamal Hasan 'Ali: It is regrettable and sad that the Arab people are witnessing the Palestinian internecine fighting after offering every sacrifice for the Palestine cause and after offering thousands of martyrs. We must be as frank as the Saudi crown prince and say that what occurred in the PLO are repercussions of the Arab differences, the absence of a united Arab strategy to move toward a solution of Arab issues, and the existence of a minimum level of coordination and stands.

SAWT ASH-SHA'B: Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid stated not long ago that Israel has learned from past lessons, while the Palestinian revolution has not. President Chadli was talking to Palestinian prisoners released by Israel in exchange for six Israeli prisoners. What do you say about the Algerian president's statement,which is particularly significant as he represents one of the first countries in the Arab world to wage a battle for liberation.

Kamal Hasan 'Ali: If the statement means that Israel has unified its efforts, plans, and methods to achieve its objectives, while the Palestinian resistance factions have not, then Algerian President Chadli Benjedid is correct in what he said. The PLO must be in control of its own decisionmaking, and its moves must be toward this end in order to safeguard the Palestine cause. Safeguarding the organization's unity must be the method as well as the objective.

SAWT ASH-SHA'B: What does Israel's release of 4,500 Palestinian and Lebanese fighters mean? Does this action represent a reciprocal step that indicates the beginning of goodwill along the path toward holding negotiations between the organization and its legitimate leadership and Israel, in order to establish Palestinian autonomy in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, as a step toward declaring an independent state after self-determination?

Kamal Hasan 'Ali: The Palestinian and Lebanese fighters were released, as a result of negotiations sponsored by the International Red Cross, in exchange for the PLO-held Israeli prisoners. This means that it was possible through negotiations to solve one of the points, even though indirectly or through a third party.

SAWT ASH-SHA'B: What are the dimensions of the Israeli authorities' resettling the Palestinian refugees in the West Bank and Gaza? What is your comment on these measures?

Kamal Hasan 'Ali: Israel is not entitled to do anything that harms the status of the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza. This Israeli measure blatantly conflicts with all charters and agreements, led by the fourth Geneva convention which prohibits the occupying state from undertaking any measures which change the regional or demographic nature of the occupied territories. Several UN resolutions, particularly those issued by the committee on the Israeli practices in the occupied Arab territories, condemn these Israeli practices. Another matter to be taken into consideration is the fact that the Palestinians themselves reject these measures.

SAWT ASH-SHA'B: What advice can you give the legitimate Palestinian leadership if it emerges politically safe from the Tripoli battle?

Kamal Hasan 'Ali: Perhaps the best that can be said in this regard is that the Palestinian leadership should comprehensively reconsider the situation, taking into consideration, analyzing, and learning lessons from past expereinces and tragedies. In light of this, it can make a realistic plan for itself — taking into consideration the various changes on the international and Arab arenas — and can draw up a program for the implementation of

this plan — taking into consideration that the factors of time and the current circumstances require the Palestinian leadership to settle its affairs and reach a unified stand in order to activate the Palestinian people's issue, regain the legitimate Palestinian rights, and end the occupation of the Arab territories. All of this should take place within the framework of independence and should be removed from any external influences that might limit the freedom of its action or decision.

SAWT ASH-SHA'B: How can the Arabs face the strategic agreement between the United States and Israel after it has been reported that this agreement will be sufficient reason for motivating Arab efforts to hold an Arab summit to discuss the changing circumstances in the Arab world?

Kamal Hasan 'Ali: All we hope is that the Arabs will agree to the method of solving Arab problems. We hope that the next Arab summit will be well prepared before it convenes, and that there will be at least a mimimum degree of agreement. If Arab differences and polarization within the PLO continue, we can tell in advance that the Arab summit results will not serve the Arab causes.

SAWT ASH-SHA'B: It is reiterated that among the reasons that led the United States to declare its strategic agreement with Israel are the fact that Egypt did not adopt an enthusiastic stand toward Ra's Banas or the Bright Star maneuvers, and that Egypt is embarrassed by Egyptian-U.S. relations at a time when it is trying to rebuild bridges with the Arab and Islamic world. What is your comment on this subject?

Kamal Hasan 'Ali: First of all, our relations with the United States are strong, and minor affairs, for example, cannot undermine these relations. Egypt is an independent and sovereign state that has its free will, free decision, and its role in the region in terms of comprehensively solving both the Palestine problem and the Lebanese problem. It has the role of a full U.S. partner. In this regard, we may differ with the United States on some points; the same may happen in our bilateral relations. We are neither embarrassed by this strong relationship nor by any differences we may have with the United States.

SAWT ASH-SHA'B: What obstructs the restoration of united Arab ranks within the framework of official relations, at least between Egypt and the Arab countries that have strong, but not official relations with Egypt, such as Jordan, Iraq, Morocco, and Lebanon?

Kamal Hasan 'Ali: The timing of restoring official relations between Egypt and the Arab countries is left for these countries to decide depending on their situation. What we concentrate on now is the content of these relations. Through its contacts with the majority of the Arab countries, Egypt will not embark on requesting the restoration of these relations, to avoid any harassment. The Egyptian contacts at all levels take place despite the absence of official relations, and the other economic, cultural, and technical relations are being promoted and developed.

SAWT ASH-SHA'B: Where do the Egyptian-Arab relations stand now, and what does Egypt require from the moderate Arab countries? How do you see the Arab world and Egypt in 1984?

Kamal Hasan 'Ali: As I have said, Egyptian-Arab relations are developing positively and improving in the interest of the Arab nation. Egypt hopes that the fraternal Arabs will overcome their differences to confront the problems and dangers surrounding them. Egypt hopes to see the Arab world utilize its efforts and potentials to establish Arab communities, and raise the standard of the Arab people in all fields, and to see this region enjoy security, stability, and democracy. We are confident that in 1984 Egypt and the Arab world will be closer, and will witness joint action. This is Egypt's destiny.

SAWT ASH-SHA'B: In light of your recent visit to Jordan and Economy Minister Dr Mustafa as-Sa'id's coming visit, how are the Egyptian-Jordanian relations developing?

Kamal Hasan 'Ali: The two countries' relations are very close. There are permanent contacts between President Mubarak and his Brother King Husayn in order to exchange views and consult on issues of concern to the two countries and peoples in the Arab nation's interests. During my last visit to Jordan, my meeting with King Husayn, and my talks and contacts with the Jordanian officials, I sensed real love and genuine brotherhood. I believe that the Jordanian-Egyptian relations are satisfactorily developing for the benefit of the two countries and peoples. Undoubtedly, Economy Minister Mustafa as-Sa'id's visit to Jordan will be a positive step in this direction.

SAWT ASH-SHA'B: What about the Egyptian-Lebanese relations. What will Egypt's role be in Lebanon if all foreign forces withdraw from there?

Kamal Hasan 'Ali: Egypt is in continuous contact with the Lebanese Government. It has contacts also with the Lebanese man in the street. Egypt supports the Lebanese legitimacy and stresses the need for national reconciliation and for the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon, beginning with the Israeli forces. Our relations with Lebanon are charaterized by our support and backing for this country. Egypt is looking forward to the day when Lebanon will realize its unity and harmony and restore its sovereignty over its entire national soil.

SAWT ASH-SHA'B: What role do you wish Saudi Arabia to play in the region?

Kamal Hasan 'Ali: Saudi Arabia is a fraternal Arab country and is one of the forces of moderation and stability in the Arab region. We wish it success in shouldering the responsibility imposed on it by its national and pan-Arab duties.

SAWT ASH-SHA'B: How can the Arab world affect the U.S. presidential elections? In other words, what do you think the Arab world should do during the next stage in order to achieve progress toward solving the Palestinian problem, prevent the establishment of more settlements, and urge Israel to make a gesture of good-will?

Kamal Hasan 'Ali: The Arab world must take a unified position and must reach a certain level of solidarity to face the outside world. This position cannot be realized unless the Arabs overcome their differences and reach a practical formula by which they can face the world and extricate their rights. The inter-Arab

relations in their current form weaken the Arab image before the world, and rob the Arabs of their credibility and ability to extricate their rights. How can they convince the world of the justice of their cause and exercise pressure to realize a solution for their problem? The continuation of the current Arab situation is the greatest service that can be rendered to those who do not want success to the Arab cause. It is surprising that the Arabs, with their immense financial and economic resources, have not so far been able to affect the United States, whereas many states with far less resources have been able to affect the American scene and have their voice heard there. Hence, the Arabs must employ their diverse resources to explain their views in the United States and attract effective support.

SAWT ASH-SHA'B: What do you want the United States to do to the Palestinians? At the Geneva [as published] conference, the PLO tacitly recognized Israel within secure, recgonized boundaries.

Kamal Hasan 'Ali: There must be a dialogue between the United States and the PLO. Egypt has demanded this in the past and is still considering this dialogue to be essential for a solution to the Palestinian problem. The PLO's acceptance of the Fes plan measn an acceptance of the principle of a political settlement. It is unreasonable for a Palestinian settlement to be achieved without a U.S.-PLO dialogue. The U.S. acceptance of this dialogue will be a great step forward in this direction.

SAWT ASH-SHA'B: It is rumored that Mr Kimche, director general of the Israeli Foreign Ministry, informed you that Israel would withdraw from Lebanon, and that it had asked Lebanon to appoint a governor for southern Lebanon or designate its man in the south so as to enable Israel to withdraw. It was also rumored that Lebanon answered Israel by saying that it was not in a position to do so at present.

Kamal Hasan 'Ali: We have no information to this effect. As for Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon, this will be declared by Israel. What is important is that Israel should implement this stand by completely withdrawing from Lebanon.

SAWT ASH-SHA'B: What is Egypt's position on the Ethiopian threats to Sudan?

Kamal Hasan 'Ali: Egypt and Sudan are tied with deep relations that have been strengthened by blood. They are connected by the integration charter and the joint defense agreement. Within its peaceful policy, Egypt works for the removal of all factors that cause tension and instability in the African Continent. Hence, Egypt is exerting its efforts to contribute toward removing tension between Sudan and Ethiopia and for settling the two countries' differences within a framework of understanding and awareness of their joint interests. We hope that good neighborly relations will prevail between them.

SAWT ASH-SHA'B: Thank you, sir.

MONDAY MORNING Interviews Foreign Minister 'Ali

NC160845 Beirut MONDAY MORNING in English 12-18 Dec 83 pp 65-67

[Interview with Kamal Hasan 'Ali, prime minister and foreign minister, to written questions submitted by *MONDAY MORNING* magazine — date and place not given]

[Text] Question: President Mubarak has been quoted as saying that if reported details of the new U.S.-Israeli strategic cooperation pact are correct, "it would be disastrous for the Middle East peace process and put America's friends in a difficult position." Could you elaborate on Egypt's position vis-a-vis the new American-Israeli alliance?

Answer: Egypt's position on this issue emanates from its conviction that what the region needs, first and foremost, is the intensification of peace efforts and the increasing of their momentum to reach a solution to the Lebanese and Palestinian problems in such a manner as to eliminate the tension and instability prevailing in the area and remove it from (the sphere of) foreign intervention.

Furthermore, experience has shown the futility of the policy of flooding one of the parties with arms in a bid to persuade it to soften its inconsistent positions. Indeed, we see that despite the support that this pact offers Israel, it has not succeeded in changing its position on the basic issues in the Middle East, such as the withdrawal from Lebanon, the Palestine question, and the issue of settlements. This was confirmed by the official statements of both the American and Israeli sides.

If, with this backing, Israel holds on to its well-known positions on settlements and other issues the peace process will remain at a standstill, with all the dangers that this entails. Moreover, by throwing its weight behind Israel, the United States abandons the position of neutrality enjoyed by a full partner in the peacemaking process. Under these conditions, the Arab parties concerned are not encouraged to get involved in negotiations for a peaceful settlement.

We urge the United States to use its leverage with Israel to persuade it to show flexibility in its policies towards Lebanon and the Palestinian issue in order to give a new impetus to the resumption of the peace process. We expect the United States to succeed in fulfilling its latest assurances to us on this matter.

Question: How will this pact affect Egyptian-American relations and Egyptian-Israeli relations?

Answer: Egypt is closely watching the development of this agreement, and we will be following the results of the meetings of the American-Israeli political-military committee, which are scheduled to be held in Washington early next year. Naturally, the results of the committee meetings will have an impact on the position of Egypt and its view of the situation in general. On the other hand, we have received high-level American assurances

that the United States has not changed its policies in the Middle East and that President Reagan is personally committed to push the peace process forward on the basis of his initiative to achieve a comprehensive and just peace. As far as Egyptian-Israeli relations are concerned, it would be a mistake for Israel to exploit its improved relations with Washington and the joint planning and common ideas linking (the two countries) to adopt hard-line positions. Egypt, while committed to the peace strategy and determined to press ahead along this path to its logical conclusion — that is, a comprehensive settlement — hopes that this position is reciprocated.

Question: Will the recently-concluded U.S.-Israeli military cooperation pact impede a settlement in Lebanon or hasten it?

Answer: We have received American assurances that the United States is committed to seeking to facilitate the achievement of national reconciliation in Lebanon and to secure the speedy withdrawal of all foreign forces. We hope that this pact will not reflect negatively on this American commitment.

Question: France is reportedly troubled by the recent U.S. embrace of Israel, fearful that political pressure at home might lead U.S. forces to a premature and potentially bloody withdrawal, and worried that U.S. officials may emphasize force to the detriment of negotiations with Syria. Does this encourage Egypt to resurrect its joint Franco-Egyptian plan for peace in the Middle East which was floated at the Security Council last year?

Answer: It would be a mistake to resort to military might as an alternative to negotiations or as a means to prompt the parties to negotiate. It has been clearly demonstrated that resorting to violence and the escalation (of violence) complicate problems rather than resolve them.

This underlines the need for the United States to use its leverage with Israel to get it to withdraw as soon as possible to the international borders with Lebanon, which would pave the way for a Syrian withdrawal. This should be accompanied by the intensification of U.S. efforts to rebuild the Lebanese Army, and that would spare the American contingent in the peacekeeping force any exposure. Once the Lebanese Army is capable of controlling the situation, this (U.S.) force can be withdrawn.

The Franco-Egyptian plan for peace in the Middle East is still on the agenda of the Council, and can be revived whenever all the parties concerned so desire. Such approval is essential for the implementation of the plan.

Question: The world at large is committed to the notion that both Syria and Israel must leave Lebanon. Does Egypt view the Israelis as illegal invaders, in a different category from the Syrians, who were originally invited in? Or does Egypt support the view that the withdrawals should be simultaneous?

Answer: Even though the Egyptian position is based on the necessity of the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon, we nevertheless believe that the position of the Syrian forces in Lebanon cannot be equated with that of the Israeli forces. The former entered Lebanon at the request of the legitimate Lebanese authorities and within the context of Arab consent to the Lebanese request, whereas the Israeli forces entered Lebanon as invaders. Thus, the presence of the two forces cannot be equated.

Egypt therefore calls for the withdrawal of Israeli forces first in accordance with a pullout timetable that would have guaranteed results, and without such withdrawal being linked to that of the Syrian forces. An Israeli withdrawal would create appropriate conditions for the pullout of the Syrian forces, especially since the legitimate Lebanese authorities have already asked the Arab League to withdraw these troops.

Question: Do you subscribe to the view that Israeli actions in south Lebanon and along the Al-Awwali river are a prelude to its annexation, if not to turning it into a "north bank?"

Answer: Egypt has opposed, and still opposes, the concept of partial Israeli withdrawal which is not within the framework of a timetable for complete withdrawal. For a partial withdrawal not linked to such a timetable carries the danger of partition.

Consequently, continued Israeli presence on the Al-Awwali River can only mean sowing the seeds of partition or creating spheres of influence in Lebanon. We disapprove of this and strongly oppose it.

Furthermore, we are keenly aware of the difficulties and daily troubles which our brethren in south Lebanon are going through. We call on the United States to promptly adopt a firm stand which would lead to the improvement of the conditions of these people, who are currently suffering from the weight of Israeli occupation and the measures imposed by these forces on security and other grounds.

Question: Will Egypt be providing ships for the evacuation of PLO forces loyal to 'Arafat from Tripoli?

Answer: No such request has been submitted to the Egyptian authorities by Mr. Yasir 'Arafat. The evacuation of PLO forces will take place under the flags of Lebanon and the United Nations, as requested by the PLO and approved by the Security Council.

Question: Will Egypt be supporting the intended resumption of talks between 'Arafat and King Husayn on a joint approach to Middle East peace negotiations?

Answer: Egypt has always supported Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue. We still believe that the resumption of such a dialogue is essential for the activation of issues related to the Palestinian cause. King Husayn recently announced that he was willing to resume this dialogue. We support this position and hope that the dialogue will take place soon, since a Jordanian-Palestinian agreement on a joint approach to Middle East peace talks would be a positive indicator and would block attempts to freeze the issue.

Question: Would Egypt welcome a move of 'Arafat's headquarters to Cairo?

Answer: Egypt has already announced that Mr. Yasir 'Arafat is welcome in Cairo. For Egypt would then be receiving the legitimate PLO chairman, with all that this entails in terms of support for legitimacy. On the other hand, we are opposed to the creation of a new Palestinian diaspora pending the solution of the problem.

Question: How does Egypt view the U.S. air raids on Syrian positions in Lebanon and the downing of two U.S. jets by Syria over the central Lebanese mountains on Sunday?

Answer: We are worried by every operation that escalates the situation in Lebanon. That is why we have called on all sides to exercise utmost restraint because mutual escalation leads to a cycle of violence which, once unleashed, is difficult to stop.

We have cautioned all the parties to this effect, especially the Americans, who have recently informed us that they are taking our advice into consideration.

We must not forget that armed confrontation between these parties will only further complicate the situation, and we believe that a Lebanese settlement can be achieved through negotiations, not through the use of force.

Question: How does Egypt view the prospects of a solution in Lebanon following the refusal of the American administration to reconsider the May 17 Lebanese-Israeli agreement?

Answer: There is no doubt that the brunt of the burden of resolving the Lebanese crisis must be primarily assumed by the various Lebanese factions, which have an interest in a free and united Lebanon. In view of this, I believe that a consensus among Lebanese factions on a unified position, and the achievement of an agreement between them and the legitimate authorities within the context of national reconciliation would compel all external parties to respect this will.

On the other hand, a Lebanese-Syrian dialogue is essential and required in order to arrive at a Lebanese-Syrian agreement that would both take into consideration Syrian security fears and safeguard legitimate Lebanese rights, notably, Lebanon's right to exercise its sovereignty over all its national territory within the framework of national reconciliation and unity among all Lebanese communities.

AL-AKHBAR on Israeli Settlements Policy

NC160728 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0525 GMT 16 Dec 83

[Text] *AL-AKHBAR*'s editorial deals with Israeli Prime Minister Shamir's statement concerning the need to press on with the construction of settlements in Judea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. The paper calls attention to the fact that Shamir is an advocate of spreading settlements throughout all occupied Arab territories as a means of annexing those lands to Israel.

The paper stresses that the Israeli prime minister will not achieve the aims behind this policy, because it contradicts both reality and the natural course of things. This policy can only delay a solution to the Palestinian problem.

The paper notes that Egypt criticizes all acts of murder and destruction on the grounds that they interfere with the establishment of peace in the region. It calls on Arabs everywhere to face this situation by adopting a tough stand which would put an end to this unpromising deterioration.

This, the paper adds, explains why Egypt has assumed its historical responsibility through a tough stand on Shamir's settlements policy — the policy which Shamir advocated in the past and advocates for the future.

The daily *AL-AKHBAR* concludes its article by declaring that it is about time the Arabs realize that the situation can no longer stand the differences which have erupted in their ranks. The policy of polarization policy has now become unacceptable. The Arabs should view the Arab issues related to the Palestinian people and events in the Arab world as every man's concern. In order to face the situation, they should adopt a similar approach and act as one power. This is the way to maintain the strength and efficacy of the Arab historical course and prevent it from coming off the tracks under pressure.

Aircraft Raid Iran's Dehloran, Ilam 15 Dec

JN151247 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1220 GMT 15 Dec 83

[Text] A military spokesman has stated the following:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

It was not we that wronged them: They wronged their own souls. [Koranic verse]

In confirmation of Iraq's ability to justly and boldly reply to the criminal and hostile treacherous acts perpetrated by the ruling clique in Iran against our proud people and our glorious Arab nation; due to this clique's reckless insistence on continuing its criminal aggression, its failure to respond to the peaceful efforts and sincere calls to end the war and dispute between Iraq and Iran, its continuing shelling of Iraqi civilian targets and secure town borders, and its committing of heinous crimes against the fraternal Arab countries with the aim of shaking their security and threatening their entity and sovereignty; and according to the military spokesman's statement on 12 December 1983 that we are forced to reply to the source of aggression by military means— the aircraft of our bold Air Force this afternoon raided selected targets in the Dehloran and Ilam towns, scoring direct and effective hits. All of our attacking air formations returned safely to base after successfully accomplishing their duty. Praise be to God.

God is great. Strength and victory to great Iraq; glory to the glorious Arab nation. God grants success.

[Dated] 15 December 1983

Armed Forces General Command Communique No 1,311

JN151730 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 15 Dec 83

[Communique No 1,311 issued by Armed Forces General Command on 15 December 1983]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Our heroic Armed Forces have continued their triumphant operations at the front against the forces of the Khomeyniite gang which insists on war and aggression. The results for last night and today are as follows:

1. Using various weapons, our forward units opened fire at an enemy concentration opposite their positions in the area east of Basra killing three and wounding others. Our forces also destroyed one excavator and one observation post killing those manning it.

2. Using various kinds of weapons, one of our forward units opened fire at an enemy patrol which tried to approach our forward positions in the northern sector of the front, and forced the patrol members to flee. Our forces destroyed one infantry position and one observation post killing those manning it.

In another area of the same sector, new groups of Iranian soldiers sought refuge with our forward units in order to escape the tyranny and oppression of the Iranian rulers. They were safely evacuated to the rear.

3. Using various kinds of weapons, our forward units pounded a number of enemy positions and troop concentrations opposite their positions in the central sector of the front killing one soldier and destroying three infantry positions.

4. The criminal Iranian rulers yesterday and today shelled Mandali and its environs with heavy artillery martyring 1 woman; injuring 2 civilians; and damaging 1 private car, 21 houses, and a number of civilian establishments.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 15 December 1983

Foreign Minister Returns From PRC 16 December

JN160820 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0730 GMT 16 Dec 83

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Dec (INA) — Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister, returned here at dawn today at the end of an official 4-day visit to the PRC, during which he held talks with President Li Xiannian and other Chinese officials on bilateral relations and the ways of bolstering them. The talks also dealt with the developments in the Iraqi-Iranian war, the situation in the Arab region, and several international issues of common interest.

In a press conference in Beijing prior to his departure, Tariq 'Aziz stressed that the results of his talks with the Chinese officials were very good. He expressed satisfaction with these results and said that the Iraqi-Chinese relations will witness further development and an increase in political understanding.

'Aziz invited PRC Foreign Minister Wu to officially visit Iraq. The visit will take place at a later time.

Reportage on PRC Visit

For PRC coverage of the visit to the PRC by Iraqi Foreign Affairs and Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz, including his talks with Li Xiannian, Zhao Ziyang, and Wu Xueqian, see the Middle East & Africa section of the 13 December issue of the China *DAILY REPORT* and subsequent issues.

President Receives Egyptian Delegation 15 Dec

JN151021 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0945 GMT 15 Dec 83

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Dec (INA) — President Saddam Husayn received Mukhtar 'Abd al-Hamid, chairman of the Egyptian Agricultural Workers Union, and his delegation this morning. Talks dealt with the fraternal relations between the two brotherly countries and the ways of bolstering them in all fields in a manner which serves the Arab nation, strengthens its ability to confront the challenges facing it, and puts it on the road to development and progress.

King Husayn 15 Dec Speech to European Parliament
JN152150 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1920 GMT 15 Dec 83

["Text" of King Husayn's address before the European Parliament in Strasbourg on 15 December — read by announcer]

[Text] Mr President, venerable ladies and gentlemen, representatives of European nations. During this dangerous and tense stage in the superpowers relations and while Europe is indulging in the issues of nuclear warheads deployment, the Middle East is witnessing an unprecedented state of tension causing clouds of panic to fill the region's skies. The flames of confrontation in the eastern Mediterranean and Gulf war will not only threaten the fragile peace in the Middle East but will also pose a threat to the security of Europe and the world at large.

As you very well know, the Arab region extends over two continents — Asia and Africa — and overlooks seas and oceans and controls vital world communication lines. It is a region rich in natural resources that are vital to humanity. The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the country whose affairs I am proud to have been responsible for running for the largest part of my life, represents part of this Arab nation. The Arab and Hashemite struggle has always been the same. I am proud to be related to prophet Muhammad, may God's peace and blessings be upon him, and to belong to house of Hashim from the Quraysh tribe, one of the most prestigious and noble tribes in the Arabian Peninsula. I am the grandson of Husayn ibn 'Ali, who was chosen as leader of the great Arab revolution known as the great Arab renaissance which emerged at the turn of this century. I am also the grandson of 'Abdallah, the founder of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jrodan. All my life I have felt a sense of commitment. This feeling is still with me in the face of the just and honorable Arab causes and their sacred right to live in freedom, dignity, and peace.

The principal cause of the danger and instability which prevail in the region is the nonachievement of a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict and the tragedy of the Palestinian people, which has not yet been resolved. What gives me the right to speak to you about this problem is the fact that the Jordanians, of all the Arabs, are the most closely related to the Palestinian people. As a Hashemite, the relationship of my family to Palestine and the Palestinians has deep-rooted and historic ties. Arab Gaza, which has been under Israeli occupation since 1967 and which has been known as Ghazzatah Hashim, is the burial place of Hashim, the founder of the Hashemite house in which Prophet Muhammad, God's peace and blessings be upon him, was born. Husayn, my great grandfather and leader of the great Arab revolution, who never bargained with the Arab and Palestinian rights, is in his last resting place near the Holy Rock in the blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque in Holy Jerusalem, where I stood one day beside my grandfather before he was shot down by a treacherous bullet after he had devoted his life in service of the Arab nation and in defense of Palestinian rights.

Jordan is the homeland of the land of a proud and daring people who never surrendered to dilemmas. Jordan has always endeavored to be a positive example for others by its clear vision, courage, sacrifice, and construction, despite grave obstacles and the uncertain future of our entire region and all those who live in it. Jordan is a land of amity and stability that seeks peace. Jordan is committed to defending the freedom, security, stability, and rights of the Arabs in forging ahead with the entire Arab world. Finally, Jordan is the cradle of civilization in a region and world devoid of forbearance. The sons of Jordan believe in one God and live in complete peace and harmony like the sons of one family. As a Muslim, I believe that my religion respects all divine religions and completes the messages of God Almighy who created people to live as equals with pride and affection, at a time when Christiantiy, Judaism, and Islam are depicting in several parts of the world a completely different picutre than the spiritual and divine teachings that are based on forbearance and mutual respect.

Our religion, as always, enlightens the road for us and stresses the implementation of Almighty God's will on land. Therefore, we are against all political movements that call for disunion and create fragmentation and separation among peoples. We must take from Lebanon a warning for all of us and must not allow what is taking place in Lebanon to be repeated elsewhere.

We have performed our national duty and fulfilled our national commitments in an unjust war that was imposed on Iraq. Although we have not hesitated to help Iraq, we seek to achieve a just end to this terrible and expensive war. Iraq has responded in a positive manner to any initiative that would put an end to the hostile actions. The settlement of the conflict regarding the demarcation of borders must be achieved in accordance with the international laws and agreements and the known historical rights. The relations between Iraq and Iran and other neighboring states must be based on an entrenched basis of mutual respect for the independence and unity of each state and the noninterference in the domestic affairs of any party.

As is the case in the tragic situation that Lebanon is living now, there is nothing worse and more vicious than the veiled attempts to fragment Iraq's social structure. These attempts have failed due to the Iraqi people's unity and cohesion. It is clear that such attempts aim at weakening and fragmenting the Arab states, and consequently destroying their structures. Therefore, we will continue our support for Iraq in this war which broke out in the name of religion while in fact, its objectives contradict religion and the magnanimous instructions in the same measure that they are devastating and destructive.

The deterioration of the current situation in the Middle East is due to various political factors. The most important of these factors is the repeated failure to tackle the Palestinian question, which is the basic problem in the Middle East. This problem has undermined the course of the domestic policies in the Arab states and Israel alike. The denial of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights has triggered off a fresh wave of extremist policies which could undermine the social tranquillity of other states in the region, just as it has destroyed the structure of the Lebanese society.

Our relations with Palestine as a country and the Palestinians as a people are deep and long lasting relations. It is not easy to abandon this long chain of historical, cultural, economic, and political ties between the two banks of Jordan. This linkage has

been stressed by the PNC resolution in February 1983 regarding a confederation between the occupied Arab territories and Jordan. Undoubtedly, for many reasons, Jordan is the natural option as a partner in the action to determine the future of these territories. The announcement of unity of the two banks of Jordan in 1950 was based on the right to self-determination and the expression of free will. The constitution of 1950 stated, unreservedly, that the unity of the two banks does not contradict the final situation of any settlement of the Palestinian question. At the same time, we continue to realize that the Paelstinian national rights cannot be relinquished. These are the principles that guide our action. They will continue to be the lighthouse for future steps.

Within the framework of this concept, Jordan and the PLO have proposed that the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip be linked in a form of confederation with Jrodan. This common understanding would have made peace negotiations possible had it not been for the following major considerations: The first consideration is Israel's rejectionist policy and its adamant refusal to implement the provisions of the international law and the UN Resolutions. Since the beginning, Israel has been carrying out a premeditated policy aimed at disrupting any peaceful plan that would lead to a just settlement of the Palestinian question. The Israeli leaders are waging a constant and relentless war and deploying their huge military forces to sap the Palestinian people's national will and change the Arabic features of their homeland. War followed by creeping annexation have become the distinguished marks of the Israeli expansionist policy which began in Jerusalem, then in the Golan Heights, and later the call for annexing the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Undoubtedly, should Israel have the opportunity, southern Lebanon would become Jordan's northern bank after Israel has detached that important part of the national Lebanese territory.

Even Egypt, which has reached a peace agreement, has not escaped Israel's greed for expansion. The Egyptian Tabah region is still under the Israeli occupation because the problem of Tabah has so far not been settled. It seems that Israel's insistence on continuing expansion is caused by the U.S. hesitation to be committed to the main principle of international law which makes the possession of the territory of others by force an illegal act.

The second consideration is the disarray in Arab ranks and the lack of Arab reconciliation. The Arab League Charter which governs all Arab endeavors, including the summit activities, is based on the concept of the need for absolute consensus on all issues. This is a futile concept which many of us believe must be changed immediately.

What is more important than these two considerations is the U.S. reluctance to work firmly and immediately and shoulder its responsibility in establishing peace. This hallmark in U.S. policy-making has been repeatedly interpreted as coming within Israel's programs both in the occupied territories and Lebanon. Recently, this opinion has been corroborated by the revival of the so-called strategic alliance or cooperation between the United States and Israel. According to this alliance, the United States will provide funds to the Israeli settlements, thus flouting the form and substance of the U.S. President's peace proposals.

These factors have opened the way for Israel to continue its expansionist policy without any hindrance. These factors have contributed toward ruining the trust in the United States and allowed the specter of polarization around the superpowers to haunt the region. Finally, these factors allowed the Arab extremists and those who do not represent anybody within the PLO to challenge the PLO's legitimate leadership.

These are ominous, serious results. However, the most serious result has been the attempt to contain the PLO and control it by a single Arab side and its extremist agents in the PLO. This is an illegal step which is completely rejected by us and the majority of the Arabs and the Palestinians.

A successful attempt to contain the PLO will impose restrictions on the PLO's political work as a sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. The Palestinians under occupation and in the diaspora will be robbed of a genuine representative who will express their interests and defend them in international forums. The absence of public institutions which express the desires of the majority of the Palestinian people in general and the Palestinians who have been living under the Israeli occupation since 1967, have increased the strain under which we have been working over the past few years.

The fierce onslaught on the Palestinians in northern Lebanon, which has coincided with the Israeli policies in the occupied territories, is aimed at prolonging the current status quo; namely, allowing Israel to officially annex the West Bank and render the Lebanese territorial sovereignty in a state of permanent capitulation.

The result is a confrontation between two main regional powers in order to impose hegemony over the entire region.

It is naive to say that the time element is the more important. I am afraid that the time element has been lost to all of us.

Numerous efforts have been made to solve the Arab-Israeli dispute because well-meaning parties lack firmness in taking effective measures to abort the work of those who do not want the prevalance of peace and justice. It is of great concern to us to see that the world political circles are not showing clear concern over the region's recent developments which are likely to leave their permanent prints on the Middle East. There is no doubt that the general Middle East situation has become more dangerous, and that a quick collective move has to be made tackle the present deterioration.

The threat is no longer confined to local, limited clashes among the Syrian forces, the PLO, or the Israeli army. The threat lies in the superpower confrontation which may lead to the use of the deadly weapons which caused great concern in Europe.

The USSR has for years been shunned from the peace process in the Middle East, while the United States unilaterally took the responsibility for peacemaking.

Following the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, the USSR lost its influence and reputation in the Middle East. However, the international role which the USSR can play as a superpower is

part of international political action. Therefore, the Soviets cannot be kept away from the crux of the problem. As for the Palestinian people and their representatives, they have been expelled and constantly ignored.

The existence of common interests between the USSR and some local countries and forces in the region has enabled the Russians to regain their position and to challenge the isolation imposed upon them by the United States. At the same time, the United States has found that it was difficult, if not impossible despite the availability of suitable circumstances, to proceed toward peace without Palestinian representation and Soviet cooperation. The U.S. policymakers concentrated their attention on Lebanon. However, the Lebanese crisis is essentially a consequence of the Arab-Israeli conflict, which has been completely overlooked.

The intervention fo the Multinational Peacekeeping Force in Lebanon has brought the superpowers dangerously close to confrontation. In order to make the presence of this force directly linked to achieving the complete and unconditional withdrawal of all foreign forces, the restoration of that country's complete sovereignty over all its territory within a reasonable period of time must be based on a serious commitment by all parties in the Lebanese community in order to revise all their past, present, and future differences and seriously proceed toward that goal and achieve a new beginning for Lebanon.

Jordan strongly opposes the escalation of the nuclear arms race in Europe. The dependence of countries on each other has taught us that the threat of war in Europe threatens our own lives. Moreover, war in the Middle East threatens to destroy the security of Europe. It is important for all of us that a dialogue between the two superpowers be initiated in order to tackle the peace process in the Middle East. We hope that Europe will adopt a constructive step in stressing the importance of the USSR's participation in the peace process to avoid the increasing threat of polarization and tragic explosion.

If Security Council Resolution 242 is the only internationally acceptable resolution as the basis for peace in the Middle East, then all permanent members of the Security Council are directly responsible for implementing all its clauses that call for complete withdrawal and total peace as well as guaranteeing the security of all countries in the region following the achievement of the desired comprehensive peace.

We expect Europe to play a positive role in lessening the threat of confrontation between the two superpowers and play an active role in attaining peace in the Middle East, which will inevitably be achieved one day. Naturally, we realize completely that the external countries or forces can create and end a certain situation. However, the concerned parties in any conflict are alone obliged to agree on a final settlement. Needless to say, Jordan has done its utmost in making several peace initiatives succeed. We have sought every means and seized every opportunity and tried to reach an understanding with everyone in order to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in our troubled region.

Jordan has firmly supported all international initiatives aimed at solving Palestinian and Middle East problems. Our cooperation with Ambassador Gunar Jaring, after our direct participation and contribution in preparing Security Council Resolution 242 on 22 November 1967, was complete and frank. This was also our position regarding our participation in the 1973 Geneva conference. Moreover, Jordan supported the joint U.S.-Soviet statement on 1 October 1977. We also hailed Europe's role when it issued the Venice Declaration in 1980 as a step on the right path. Jordan also welcomed with the same spirit the Soviet call for an international conference to discuss the issue with all concenred parties attending, including the PLO, the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. Although we cannot blame Egypt for regaining its occupied territories, we cannot accept the two Camp David Agreements because they did not deal with Palestinian issue, which is the crux of the Middle East crisis. The two Camp David agreements, which enabled the attainment of a partial peace, tipped the strategic balance in favor of Israel, and it has become the superior force in the region resulting in the current serious situation.

Jordan also played a constructive role within the Arab family, something which led to the approval of the Fes summit plan last year. This plan was preceded by the Reagan plan. Jordan exerted active efforts to merge the positive factors of the two plans so as to make possible a just and comprehensive peace, despite the fact that the two plans are based on U.S. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 which stipulated the recognition of all the states in the region. I welcomed the Reagan proposals from the beginning. I wanted them to move and develop despite the fact that they were not comprehensive enough from our viewpoint. However, the Reagan proposals were the beginning of an encouraging change compared with previous stands on the settlement.

New factors appeared in the peace process, something which was welcomed and approved. President Reagan voiced a new concept concerning the Palestinian question as the crux of the Middle East conflict. We showed great interest in President Reagan's interpretation of the two Camp David agreements concerning the status of the West Bank and Gaza Strip which should essentially be under Arab sovereignty. However, the failure to connect Israel's security requirements on the one hand and the recognition of the legitimate Arab rights in Palestine on the other has been regrettable. We had great hopes that the Reagan call would be responded to by halting the establishment of settlements and the demographic changes in the Israeli-occupied territories. This situation was greatly regretted because despite Israel's complete rejection of President Reagan's initiative, no decisive action has been taken so far. Thus the vitality of the initiative has disappeared and the momentum for peace has dwindled.

Mr President, ladies and gentlemen. I have come to you with the same spirit of my Hashemite ancesters. I have come to call for peace and cooperation among peoples of the world. World peace and international cooperation must be based on preserving man's dignity and the word of the law. Only brave and wise men can exploit rare opportunities to make the world more secure and peaceful to live in. Let us hope that we will have the courage and wisdom not only to exploit these opportunity but also to create them. We do not doubt that giving strategic considerations great attention contravenes peace because this means neglecting people's hopes and their aspirations for better life. [words indsitinct] we will be letting ourselves down and allowing the specter of bigotry to prevail.

I greatly hope and pray to God that we will succeed where others have failed.

AR-RA'Y on Strasbourg Address

JN160932 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 16 Dec 83

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Strongest Call for Peace," *AR-RA'Y says:* *Since peace and security in our region and in* Europe are the basic grounds of stability here and there, and since the destiny of the peoples in both areas cannot be left to the whims of bigotry and hegemony and the ambitions of unilaterality and domination, King Husayn made a strong call from the platform of the European Parliament in Strasbourg to European peoples, governments, and parliaments to assume an active role to attain real peace in our region —a peace that will be a basis for security and stability for all the European peoples —and to take a positive role in order to lessen the threats of confrontation between the two superpowers and to safeguard world peace. This call is a strong declaration that rejects the unilateral U.S. policy in our region under the pretext that this policy will attain peace. This U.S. policy has unveiled its real face through the U.S.-Israeli strategic cooperation agreement, and deprives the United States of the role of mediator after it preferred to be a partner and ally of the Israeli aggressors.

Thus, the U.S. Administration will no longer have an excuse that will allow it to work without Europe and the USSR in the region. It is time Europe and the USSR moved to attain real peace in the region, because peace is not a commodity which Israel exchanges for territory and expansion, and which the United States exchanges for domination and hegemony.

AR-RA'Y continues: As he used to do, King Husayn preferred to present facts. The king explained to the Europeans the considerations which have prevented peace negotiations in the Middle East. These considerations are: U.S. reluctance to face Israeli intransignece; the Israeli rejectionist policy of international law and the UN resolutions; and the disarray in the Arab ranks. In light of these facts, it is no secret that the U.S. reluctance was a collusion that was confirmed after the declaration of the U.S.-Israeli strategic agreement; the Israeli intransignece was not removed from this collusion, and U.S. tricks were the cause for the continuation of Arab differences.

AR-RA'Y continues: Thus, there was a need to put a limit to the U.S. game of illusion and to call on Europe and the USSR to work for attaining a just and comprehensive peace in the region, because peace is an Arab, European, and Soviet need, and, in fact, a world need. Peace does not depend on a unilateral U.S. and Israeli desire. This means that the participation of Europe and the USSR in attaining peace in the region is not a political courtesy to the region, but a process that will have repercussions on maintaining the security of the European and USSR peoples themselves, along with maintaining world peace. Our region has suffered a great deal due to the twisted U.S. policy and practices. After all that has happened, the joint U.S.-Israeli collusion cannot be left to act freely.

AR-RA'Y concludes: The call for peace which King Husayn made to the European leaders, peoples, and parliaments will open before them horizons that were not opened before so that with the Arabs, they will walk in a civilized peace march, and will hold with them a great responsibility for safeguarding world peace. Our world, in which we live, is not a U.S. world, and will never be so, no matter how powerful the U.S. force becomes. This world is a human one in which security and peace must prevail, beginning with our region.

SAWT ASH-SHA'B on Husayn's British TV Statement

JN160954 Amman SAWT ASH-SHA'B in Arabic 16 Dec 83 pp 1,15

[Text] London — QNA — His Majesty King Husayn has said that Jordan is waiting for the resumption of the Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue — as soon as PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat departs Tripoli — in order to reach a joint stand concerning negotiations aimed at settling the Mideast problem.

In a statement broadcast by British television early yesterday, his majesty said that there are obstacles to such a stand inside the PLO and in the Arab world.

King Husayn added that the cause of such a situation is the Arab League Charter, which asserts the need for Arab consensus in adopting decisions that concern the Arabs. He noted that the majority has the right to act and adopt decisions in accordance with this course.

King Husayn expressed the hope that this would be achieved in the near future, because consensus cannot be achieved under the current circumstances.

Answering a question on 'Arafat's leadership of the PLO, the king said that the PLO is still the sole legitimate representative of the PLO under 'Arafat and that any change to this effect is decided within the PLO's constitutional institutions. The king added that one must not judge the strength or weakness of 'Arafat's leadership through the military factor only, because under suitable circumstances we will see 'Arafat's leadership stronger than at any other time.

STAR: Al-Qasim on Need for Balanced U.S. Stand

JN151908 Amman JERUSALEM STAR in English 15-21 Dec 83 p 1

[By Khadr Masnur]

[Text] Amman — "The United States is able, and at any time, to persuade, or rather to force, Israel to adopt a serious attitude towards peace, including the withdrawal of its forces from Lebanon," says Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim. In an interview with the *STAR*, Mr. Qasim said, "If the U.S. fails to do so before it is too late, this will mean that the potential dangers of such a situation will spread to threaten peace in larger areas, within and outside the Middle East."

Mr. Qasim said that, the Arabs are "disturbed to see that Israel is tolerated in her continued offences and violence in the occupied territories, the utmost of such offences being the building of more and more settlements, which hinders any peace process." The United States, he stressed, ought to adopt a balanced stand with regard to the Arab-Israeli conflict before it is too late.

He said the U.S. has the credibility greatly to help in finding a peaceful solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict, as the U.S. is the only country that can effectively exert pressure on Israel to respond to reason and common sense.

When asked what the Arab reaction would be if Israeli intransigence continues, particularly after the U.S. and Israel have signed a strategic co-operation accord, Mr. Qasim said this accord and other serious problems will be forwarded to the next Arab summit for high-level consideration and reaction.

The Arabs, however, are being very careful not to admit any "reasons or justifications that may lead to clashes between the superpowers in our region"

While the Arabs are "truthfully working for a genuine peace," he said, the Israelis, "by effect of their arrogance, brute force and huge arsenal, are keen to carry on with their territorial ambitions and dreams."

Mr. Qasim re-emphasised that a peaceful solution "ought to observe the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, because they are the major element in the Arab-Israeli conflict."

Israel, in turn, should fully realize that she cannot have both peace and land. She can have peace in return for land, he said; but it is to be borne in mind that "Israel only talks peace while the Arabs — all Arabs, I can say, including the PLO — favour a sensible peace." He said the Fes summit peace proposals are an example of the Arabs' peaceful intentions.

Reportage on U.S. Fighting in Beirut 15 December

Tanks Shell Gunmen's Positions

NC151519 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 15 Dec 83

[Text] We have just received the following:

A security source said a short while ago that U.S. tanks are now shelling the gunmen's positions near the Pepsi Cola factory in Ash-Shuwayfat.

Ships Shelling Positions in Beirut

NC151646 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1640 GMT 15 Dec 83

[Text] We have just received the following report:

The U.S. battleships off the Al-Awza'i coast are now shelling the positions of gunmen who had earlier opened gunfire at the Marine positions in the airport. We also received a report that flares are now being dropped on the Khaldah-'Aramun-Ash-Shuwayfat axis, and that clashes with all types of weapons are now raging. Suq al-Gharb-'Alayh axis is involved in clashes.

'New Jersey' Bombarding Positions

NC151704 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1652 GMT 15 Dec 83

[Text] In a telephone contact with our correspondent, a spokesman for U.S. Marines said that the battleship *New Jersey* is taking part in shelling the hostile positions this evening. The spokesman added that the 155-mm caliber and not the 400-mm caliber cannons are being used. We have just been informed that a number of artillery shells landed on the eastern runway of Beirut Airport. The shells originated from the Socialist artillery emplacements.

Marines 'Retaliating' Against Shelling

NC151719 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1713 GMT 15 Dec 83

[Text] The Socialist-Syrian attacks on the residential areas and on the Army and Marines positions are still continuing. B'abda, the periphery of the Presidential Palace, Al-Yarzi, the periphery of the Defense Ministry, Al-Hadath, Al-Hazimiyah, the periphery of the Beirut airport, Radio Orient, Khaldah, and the Marine positions near the airport are now being subjected to shelling from artillery and rocket launchers. The U.S. Marines are now retaliating.

Ships Score Direct Hits

NC151731 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1724 GMT 15 Dec 83

[Text] A security source reported that the U.S. warships have destroyed a number of positions belonging to Junblatt's gunmen and their allies in the mountain, particularly in upper Al-Matn, Ash-Shuwayfat, and 'Aramun. Flames are now seen leaping from the destroyed positions and explosions are being heard as a result of the direct hits scored by the warships.

Rocket Hits Building Near British Headquarters

NC151406 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1352 GMT 15 Dec 83

[Text] A British military spokesman said that a rocket today hit a building near the headquarters of the British contingent of the peacekeeping force in Lebanon. He said that light weapons' fire passed over the British detachment's headquarters, but that there were no casualties in the ranks of the 110-man British force.

French Patrol Attacked in Beirut; 2 Injured

NC151559 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 15 Dec 83

[Text] The Lebanese Army positions in the areas of Khaldah, Radio Orient, the Sciences College, Ad-Dawhah, and the Old Sidon Road are now being subjected to violent artillery shelling from the Communist and Amal Gunmen's positions in Ash-Shuwayfat, Hayy as-Sullum, and [Beirut's] southern suburbs. The Socialist and Syrian artillery emplacements are also participating in the shelling.

In another development, a hand grenade was hurled this afternoon at a French patrol in West Beirut, injuring two soldiers, one of whom is in critical condition.

1 French Soldier Wounded in Mine Explosion

NC151914 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1645 GMT 15 Dec 83

[Text] A security source has informed us that around 1720 today, a French soldier was wounded when a mine exploded near a French patrol that was transporting garbage to the Normandy garbage dump.

French Military Spokesman on 15 Dec Attack

NC151757 Paris AFP in English 1748 GMT 15 Dec 83

[Text] Beirut, Dec 15 (AFP) — Three French soldiers were injured, one seriously, in a bomb attack today on the French contingent of the Multinational Force (MNF) here, while the United States battleship *New Jersey* renewed shelling of reported anti-government positions in Syrian-controlled Lebanese territory. The French soldiers were injured by a bomb which exploded as their jeep was leaving the Beirut port area accompanied by an Army truck, French Military Spokesman Lieutenant-Colonel Philippe de Longeaux said. The bomb appeared to have gone off under the jeep, but it was not yet known whether it had been thrown or detonated by remote control, he said. Two French soldiers were killed in earlier attacks on the French contingent today and late yesterday, bringing total French casualties to 81 dead since the MNF was deployed in Beirut in September 1982.

A French paratrooper died earlier today in an apparent sniper attack only hours after a French non-commissioned officer was shot dead while on patrol.

Meanwhile the battleship *New Jersey* opened fire with five-inch guns after U.S. Marines based near the Beirut International Airport came under both heavy and light arms fire late today, a spokesman for the U.S. MNF contingent said here.

Israeli Ships Shell Areas in Tripoli 15 Dec
NC152204 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 2201 GMT 15 Dec 83

[Text] Israeli warships are now bombarding the Quarantine and Al-Mina' areas in Tripoli. The 'Arafat loyalists have been placed on a maximum state of alert as a precaution against any possible landing operation by the Israeli forces.

Report on Al-Jumayyil's London News Conference
NC151624 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 15 Dec 83

[Report on statement to the press and subsequent news conference given by President Amin al-Jumayyil to foreign journalists at the Claridge Hotel in London on 15 December; read by unidentified member of Information Ministry delegation accompanying the president — live]

[Text] Ladies and gentlemen: Here follows the translation of the statement delivered by the president at his newsconference. The president said:

I am very pleased to visit the United Kingdom, particularly as my visit represents the first made by a Lebanese president to this great country. I had the honor of meeting with Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. I was pleased to meet Prime Minister Thatcher and her senior aides, the ministers. I was also pleased to meet the noble British people through their elected representatives. Attention was focused during these meetings on the situation in Lebanon, in particular, and the situation in the Middle East, in general. I briefed the British Government on what has been achieved so far on the domestic and foreign level. We exchanged views in a manner that consolidated ties between us. At these talks we also affirmed our cordial relations between Lebanon and Britain and with the great British people.

President al-Jumayyil added: I am one of those who follow Lebanon's news in the international media, including the British press which is characterized by the freedom and independence of opinion. However, at times we find some reports carry wrong interpretations of specific events or mistakenly represent other circumstances, thus affecting the readers' understanding of the real events reported in the press. This week in particular, a report published in one leading paper here carried a question whether Lebanon is worthy of the British endangering their lives for its sake. There was another question whether Lebanon is worthy of survival and deliverance. Such a ridiculous view of matters and lack of positive attitude stems from a superficial and wrong understanding of the current issues in the Middle East, particularly in Lebanon. I will attempt to answer these questions in the course of the following remarks. The president added: We in Lebanon fully realize the reasons leading some people to pose such questions about the existence of Lebanon. However, we also know well that Lebanon will remain and will not vanish thanks to the determination of the Lebanese people to survive at any price. I also recall a statement by a leading U.S. congressman 8 years ago. He said that Lebanon is a country whose existence is dispensable. Lebanon's response to such casting of doubts was a definite one. Lebanon survived despite everything. Lebanon remained steadfast, confronting the most serious dangers. The Lebanese have adopted a stance regarding the events through which they passed. Their stance resembles, to a great extent, the stance adopted by the British people in 1940 when they confronted Nazi Germany alone. What would have been the future of Britain and the world if Churchill and the British people submitted to the voice of the Nazi propaganda trumpets, which wondered whether Britain was worthy of survival or deserved to vanish from existence by the German Air Force at that dark decade of history during World War II.

President al-Jumayyil added: Lebanon has survived thanks to the steadfastness and firmness of the Lebanese people. Lebanon still exists through its legitimate and democratic establishments and those institutions which have been rebuilt, such as the brave Lebanese Army. The Lebanese Army is constantly growing and its strength, impregnability, and prestige is increasing. National military service has been implemented for the first time in Lebanon's history and it is now the duty of every Lebanese citizen without exception. Our military service has become the framework of the real unity of the sons of the one people who belong to all Lebanese families. I am confident that military service will soon enable the Lebanese state to extend its full control over every inch of Lebanese territory. It will also enable the Lebanese Army to replace the Multinational Force. The young Lebanese Army is the truest symbol of the homeland's integrity and cohesion. The members of this Army, who belong to all communities, factions, and areas in Lebanon, have pledged to die for Lebanon in defense of the integrity of its territory and of the sanctity of its soil.

The president added: Contrary to some incorrect reports, the Lebanese Army is not a Christian Army or a partisan Army. Of this army 65 percent of the men are Muslims and 35 percent are Christians. Although the Army commander is a Christian Maronite, the Army chief of staff is Muslim. Despite the local and foreign pressures to which the Army has been subjected, this Army remains united and distinguishes itself with a high degree of efficiency. The Army is determined to carry out its mission and duties, and it intervenes to settle matters wherever the need for its presence arises.

President al-Jumayyil said: The moral support given by the Multinational Force to Lebanon and its young Army has greatly helped the homeland and the Army. We are much indebted to our friends represented in the Multinational Force. In this force, the British contingent constitutes a small unit, but it is a very effective and influential unit. Moreover, I affirm the importance of the British contingent and our gratitude to its members. The British members of the Multinational Force enjoy the confidence of all factions in Lebanese society. The contingent's role is an

effective one of utmost importance.

The president added: There is no doubt that you want me to note a specific date on which the British contingent can withdraw from Lebanon to return home. In fact if I were able to set such a date there would be no need for your contingent to remain there. Maybe it is possible to note a specific date for the withdrawal of the Multinational Force, but this will not serve peace at all. It will make the enemies of peace procrastinate and we will once again risk everything. However, the president said, I would like to assure you that we in Lebanon are more eager than you for the Lebanese Army to assume the burdens of the Multinational Force and to continue to fulfill its responsibilities and duties without assistance and without difficulties, or delay.

The president said: However, the question remains what the situation will be if the Multinational Force leaves before all the non-Lebanese forces which are occupying the territory withdraw. If this happens before it is time, be it for political reasons or as a result of the international terrorist threats, the consequences will be most serious for the Middle East and the world. This will also detract from the importance of the efforts made to complete the reconciliation process which started with the Geneva Conference last month. Everyone, the president said, must beware that appearances do not deceive him and not believe that what takes place in Lebanon today is a trivial conflict by local groups, or a religious war among the various communities. What is taking place in Lebanon today will have grave consequences that could resemble to a great extent what befell the world when the Nazis threatened the small states in Europe with extinction. Nazism threatened the independence of small states half a century ago. We must awaken the world to make it realize the real situation in Lebanon. We must not forget that Lebanon today defends democracy. It has been imposed upon us to endure various types of conflicts and wars waged by others on Lebanese territory. Suffice it to mention one of these; namely, the bloody battle now raging in Tripoli in northern Lebanon. The blaze that hit the Lebanese people will soon extend and hit the Arab world and the Middle East unless an end is put to it speedily. The events in the Gulf this week are but a warning of the explosive situation which must be tackled urgently. The safety of the European peoples and their resources will be threatened, and this can also lead to a broader conflict unless we today adopt a speedy action to avoid all these dangers. The risk of achieving peace in Lebanon today will be small in comparison with the enormity of the risk in the future.

President al-Jumayyil said: Talk about peace in our area has lasted a long time. However, peace cannot be established without a healthy, sovereign, free, and independent Lebanon. We can say in addition that peace in our area depends on assisting Lebanon in the withdrawal of all illegitimate forces from its territory. As soon as the foreign pressures are removed from Lebanon, Lebanon will gradually recover from its so-called ills, and then the Lebanese will be able to solve their problems by themselves as they have done in the past.

All the participants in Geneva were touched when they discovered how close their identity of views was and how narrow the gap was that separated them as a result of sharp differences of views, which must be present in every human society. The results of the talks in Geneva were that everyone expressed his faith in Lebanon and its future.

The president added: The participants in the Geneva conference have charged me with the task of contacting the governments concerned to expedite the withdrawal of all the non-Lebanese forces from Lebanon. On the domestic front, we have carried out several serious contacts will all the concerned parties and with the Syrian and the Saudi Governments, which attended the conference in the capacity of observers, with a view to expediting the withdrawal process. As a result of this intensive diplomatic and [word indistinct] activity, we hope to declare the date and venue of the convocation of another conference that will be the second phase in the course of national reconciliation. At this second conference we hope to define the bases on which complete reconciliation will be realized. We also hope to define the prerogatives of an expanded national unity government that would take it upon itself to carry out numerous reforms in the domains of policy, society, and economy. The same expanded government will also have the responsibility of arranging the withdrawal of them Multinational Force after the withdrawal of the non-Lebanese forces that are occupying Lebanon.

The president also said: Lebanon feels dutybound toward its friends who came to its rescue. It is concerned that they return to their homes safely, without being harmed by the ordeal which the Lebanese people are experiencing as the price of freedom for Lebanon and for every honorable person everywhere. It is clear that those who are helping Lebanon and are bolstering its cause are doing so not because it is an important strategic or geographic corridor [mamarran], but because it is a meeting point of civilizations, religions, and nationalities, and because of its historic and cultural significance. Our small country has been and still is the meeting point of numerous nationalities, diverse religions, and different civilizations. Moreover, it has always been an influential participant in various humanitarian spheres. Since the dawn of history, Lebanon has sent its sons to various countries in order to enrich its culture and to be enriched from the culture of others. As a result of this cultural liaison, the Lebanese created cooperation and understanding among various peoples. Lebanon's message in the world is based on the unification of nationalities, peoples, and nations; on tolerance and coexistence among religions, beliefs, creeds, and concepts; and on peace and justice in the world.

Throughout its long history, our land has witnessed the aggressor and the oppressor, but the land has remained and the aggressor and the oppressor have gone; and the Lebanese people have risen triumphant and proud, carrying their message in the service of the world and performing their duty toward mankind. I have repeated many times that I shall not stop; that I shall proceed along the path to the end; that I shall exert every effort; that I shall speak to friend and foe alike to serve the cause of Lebanon and its people — the cause of peace, tolerance, and equality among all. The president concluded his statement at the news conference by saying: In brief, this is the essence of the message of free, independent, and sovereign Lebanon. This message stems from the humanitarian values and the ethical principles in which we participate with your people and to which we are committed.

The president then answered journalists' questions. Following is a summary and instantaneous translation of the questions and answers.

To the first question on President al-Jumayyil's comment on the second round of the Geneva conference which is expected to be held in Montreux, Switzerland, the president said: We began contacts recently with all the parties concerned to resume the National Dialogue Conference in respect to its date and venue. A meeting will be held this coming Sunday among the Lebanese foreign minister, Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, and Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam to discuss this subject. I can affirm that as of now our coming meeting will be successful.

Answering a question about the reported possible amendment of the Lebanese-Israeli agreement, President al-Jumayyil said: The 17 May agreement is merely a starting point. The most important thing is the spirit of the agreement, which means the withdrawal from Lebanon. We must go beyond the text in respect to the agreement to ensure the withdrawal from all Lebanese territory of all non-Lebanese forces. We are in constant contact with the United States, Syria, and Israel through the committee which was set up some months ago to coordinate the question of withdrawals from Lebanon.

Answering a question about the Lebanese-British relations and whether Lebanon will purchase British fighter planes, the president said: It was not my intention to discuss this subject during my contacts in London. The Lebanese Government or the Lebanese defense minister are the authorized parties to discuss this subject at the appropriate time. Answering a question related to the U.S. shelling of some positions in Lebanon, the president said: The United States is entitled to defend its forces in Lebanon. Asked whether there are reasons for changing the agreement with Israel to facilitate the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon, the president reiterated: The question is the spirit of the agreement which means the withdrawals from Lebanon. On a question related to the national accord, the president said: The question is not that of one party making concessions to another, but one of modernizing our national institutions. To a question that he comment on the presence of foreign forces in Lebanon and whether he would identify these forces, the president said: They are the Israeli, Syrian, Libyan, Iranian, and the PLO forces.

Asked whether there is a Lebanese stance relating to the withdrawal of Yasir 'Arafat and the Palestinian forces from Lebanon, President al-Jumayyil said: The Damascus meeting this coming Sunday will discuss this subject, namely the departure of the PLO forces from Tripoli.

Asked when the Palestinian withdrawal from Tripoli will begin, the president said: The events in Tripoli are the best evidence that what is taking place in Lebanon is the war of others in our territory and a proof of others' interference in our domestic affairs. We are now working with the parties concerned for the departure of the Palestinian forces from Tripoli. Asked whether he will soon visit Syria, the president said: The visit was scheduled but was later postponed because of the illness of President Hafiz al-Asad. The visit will take place as soon as the Syrian president completes his convalescence. Answering a question about the nature of the Lebanese-Syrian relations now, President al-Jumayyil said: Our relations with Syria are excellent now. They are progressing to the better for achieving mutual cooperation to solve some problems, particularly the Syrian withdrawal from Lebanon.

PRESS ASSOCIATION Report

LD151527 London PRESS ASSOCIATION in English 1515 GMT 15 Dec 83

By Tom McMullan, PA political staff]

[Excerpts] President al-Jumayyil of Lebanon said today that he, as much as anyone, wanted to see the Lebanese Army take over the role now played in his country by British and other troops in the Multinational Force. But he declined to speculate on a date when British troops might be withdrawn. That, he suggested, would be "bad tactics." The president told a press conference at the end of his 48 hour working visit to London that he had received from Mrs Thatcher the assurance he sought of continued British support for his attempt to reconcile the warring factions in Lebanon and broaden the base of his government. He did not directly confirm a report that the reconciliation conference, postponed from Geneva a few weeks ago, will resume next week in Montreux, Switzerland. But a meeting of Arab ministers would be held in Damascus on Sunday [18 December] to discuss arrangements.

The president appeared to indicate that Lebanon was interested in buying arms from Britain, particularly aircraft and spares. "It was not my intention to discuss such problems during my talks in London. The minister of defence could discuss the matter with British ministers responsible in due time," he said. For the third time in as many days the president paid strong tribute to the role of British forces in the Multinational Force. He was highly critical of some reports in the British press which questioned if Lebanon was worth saving. "Such sorry cynicism cannot be directed by anything but a superficial understanding of the issues at stake in the Middle East and especially in Lebanon," he said. "In Lebanon we fully understand the reasons behind such suggestions. But we cannot be destroyed because the Lebanese people themselves are determined to survive." President al-Jumayyil likened the present Lebanese struggle "against formidable odds" to that by the British people in 1940 against Nazi Germany.

The Lebanese Army was growing in stature. Conscription for the first time in the history of Lebanon was becoming an instrument of unification. Recruits were coming from all sections of the community.

He added: "It will, in the fullness of time, make it possible for the Multinational Force to withdraw and for the Lebanese Army to replace that force. The Army is without doubt the most eloquent expression of national unity. There are some misleading reports in the press that the Lebanese Army is a Christian or partisan Army. In fact, it consists of 60 percent Muslims and 40 percent Christians. The moral support of the Multinational Force has helped Lebanon and her young Army. We are in debt to all our friends represented in the force in which the British contin-

gent forms a small but effective member. I cannot overemphasise the importance of the British contingent and the debt we owe them. They enjoy the confidence of all sections of Lebanese society. Their role is indeed crucial," President al-Jumayyil said. He could understand the question about when the British contingent might return home. "If I could tell you that there would be no need for their presence in Lebanon.

"We could speculate on a date for their withdrawal. In doing so we would be inviting the enemies of peace to adopt tactics which could jeopardise the whole process. I assure you we are as anxious as you are to see the Lebanese Army take over the task performed by the Multinational Force and continue to discharge its responsibilities unaided and unhindered." The president said the question still remained of what would happen if the Multinational Force was withdrawn. Such an untimely withdrawal, whether because of short term political expediency, or on account of the threat posed by international terrorism, will have great consequences in the Middle East and the world at large. It would undermine all the assiduous efforts in the process towards reconciliation started in Geneva last month. President al-Jumayyil said that peace could not be restored without the restoration of a sovereign free and independent Lebanon.

Al-Jumayyil Leaves London for Morocco 15 Dec

NC151719 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1642 GMT 15 Dec 83

[Dispatch by unidentified member of Information Ministry mission at Heathrow Airport — live]

[Excerpts] Approximately 30 minutes ago, President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil left Heathrow Airport concluding his official visit to Britain. He boarded the special plane which brought him from Beirut and is now on his way to Morocco. He is due to meet with King Hassan II for a brief visit on one of the stopovers in the presidential tour for the purpose of holding consultations on the current situation in Lebanon and the area.

In respect of President al-Jumayyil's visit to Morocco, well-informed sources told us that the visit is within the framework of the consultations which the president initiated some time ago to explain the Lebanese question and to discuss various ways and means to ensure the restoration of calm in Lebanon, to achieve the withdrawal of all the foreign forces from the territory, and to consolidate the national accord and the formula of coexistence among the sons of one homeland. President al-Jumayyil will hold talks with King Hassan II before returning to Beirut tomorrow, God willing. It is known that the meeting between President al-Jumayyil and King Hassan II is the second meeting between the Moroccan ruler and President al-Jumayyil, and it is within the framework of constant contacts and consultations carried out by the president.

In any case, we hope that President al-Jumayyil's tour will fulfill the hopes he has for achieving the Lebanese goals. Before the president left Heathrow Airport, a source told me that no date has been set for the second round of the Geneva conferece and that contacts will continue for setting a date; the venue is known and it may possibly be Montreux in Switzerland, because all hotels in Geneva are booked throughout the Christmas and New Year holidays.

The source stressed the importance of the meeting expected to be held in Damascus this coming Sunday among Foreign Minister Elie Salim, Saudi Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal, and Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam. The source said the meeting would be a basic one in respect to setting the date and venue for the second round of the National Dialogue.

Source on Dialogue Meeting, Reagan Comments

NC151323 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 15 Dec 83

[Text] A diplomatic source in the Foreign and Expatriates Affairs Ministry today announced that it is not known yet whether next week's meeting of the Dialogue Committee will take place or not. We are awaiting information to be completed on this subject after the president of the republic returns from his visit to London. The source said that the president of the republic may visit Morocco this afternoon and return to Beirut at a late hour tonight. The source said that Lebanon hopes the second Dialogue Conference will meet as soon as possible — in the middle of next week — as otherwise the conference will be postponed until 10 January because of the holidays. In reply to a question, the source said that the president's talks in London were very successful and characterized by an excellent atmosphere.

Regarding the meeting of the Security Arrangements Committee, the source pointed out that the committee will meet today in Damascus. He said that contacts were held last night with a senior Saudi official regarding the results of Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal's visit to Damascus. He explained that there is insistence on the need to stabilize the cease-fire. We hope that Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal's visit to Damascus will produce something in writing and guarantees with regard to the cease-fire,so that the previous agreement will not remain fragile.

Regarding the U.S. position and President Reagan's recent statement, the diplomatic source said that the U.S. position in Lebanon is one of self-defense. This takes place in the manner which Washington sees as appropriate. It determines where the U.S. response to the attacks on the U.S. forces should be. The source explained that there is no advance information, or coordination with the Lebanese Government on this matter.

Regarding President Reagan's statement, the source said: I think that the comment on it is that the U.S. President should rest assured that Lebanon will never collapse, and he knows very well that the internal problems in Lebanon are the results of external interventions. The United States must play its effective role in ending these interventions. He pointed out that emphasis must now be laid on ending the crisis and not on fragmenting the Lebanese situation.

Concluding, the source said: The purpose of President Reagan's statement could be to alert the Lebanese people to the danger of disintegration — something that requires quick action to achieve national unity.

Army Spokesman on Dayr al-Qamar Evacuation

NC152111 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 2045 GMT 15 Dec 83

[Text] The first batch of citizens that left Dayr al-Qamar arrived in Beirut this evening. A spokesman for the Lebanese forces said: We will continue the mountain battle until the liberation of the land. We have lost a battle but not the mountain, the spokesman added. A Junblatt source said that the Lebanese forces will be allowed to leave Dayr al-Qamar only if all of the evacuation conditions were met. The source said that the Lebanese forces have breached all conditions regarding the evacuation of the Lebanese forces from Dayr al-Qamar when some vehicles left the town laden with heavy and light weapons and when these forces provoked the Kafr Him citizens. In another development, an official spokesman for the Lebanese forces denied reports that clashes had occurred between the Lebanese forces and the Socialist gunmen on the Kafr Him-Dayr al-Qamar road. He added that Junblatt's men attacked the security forces with clubs and stones, injuring five soldiers.

Major Haddad Thanks Israel

JN160712 Marj 'Uyun Lebanon Voice of Hope in Arabic 0600 GMT 16 Dec 83

[Excerpt] Major Sa'd Haddad, leader of Free Lebanon, issued the following statement this morning:

I would like to hear the displaced persons and the Lebanese forces who were besieged in Dayr al-Qamar thanking the State of Israel. Had it not been for Israel's intervention during their siege, the Socialists would have stormed the village which was, in fact, militarily fallen. Had it not been for Israel's military intervention this time, by protecting the roads for their evacuation, the evacuation of the Lebanese forces and the civilians besieged in Dayr al-Qamar would not have taken place. Therefore, the competent parties must thank Israel.

Government, Opposition Reach Cease-Fire Pact

NC161001 Paris AFP in English 1000 GMT 16 Dec 83

[Text] Damascus, Dec 17 (AFP) -- The Lebanese Government and the main opposition coalition have agreed to a "permanent and serious" cease-fire that would take effect immediately, a member of the opposition said here today.

The government reached the accord with the National Salvation Front, which includes the Druze Moslems of Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt and other Moslem factions, a front source said. It is the leading opposition force in Lebanon.

The agreement, which reportedly contains three points, is part of what the front source called a "detailed plan" to reach peace in Lebanon. Details will be made public when the groups engaged in fighting in Lebanon have agreed to respect the cease-fire.

Airport Declared Neutral Zone

NC161109 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1037 GMT 16 Dec 83

[Text] During the relay of the holiday prayers from the Grand 'Umari Mosque we received a report from Damascus that agreement was reached during the meetings of the security committee on a comprehensive cease-fire in all Lebanese territory, and on the reopening of Beirut International Airport in particular. The agreement contains the following articles:

1. All the parties in all the Lebanese areas promise not to shell the towns and villages, to respect the residential areas, and not to attack any populated area.

2. To reopen Beirut International Airport and to declare it a neutral zone. All the parties will fully respect the cease-fire. There is also a comprehensive and complete security plan that will be put into effect. The agreement stipulates that these decisions should go into effect immediately, that is at 1200 today.

We have learned from the Public Works and Transport Ministry that Beirut International Airport will be reopened within 45 minutes from now, and that arrangements are now being taken to resume air traffic at Beirut International Airport. We point out that a security setback occurred shortly before the news of the cease-fire was received at 1200 today. Contacts are now taking place to make all parties abide by this agreement, which will be a serious start to a stable security stage that will avert the dangers of shelling and of the other security dangers facing the Lebanese.

We pointed out that there was a setback before this news was received from Damascus. Sniper fire and RPG's are still being directed at the Army positions in Qabr Shmun, 'Aramun, and Khaldah. However, these developments took place before the parties were informed about the cease-fire agreement in Damascus. This does not mean that the agreement announced in Damascus has collapsed. The agreement has not yet been communicated to the parties, groups, and quarters concerned. Contacts are continuing to stabilize this agreement and to put it into effect, because it was concluded with the agreement of all the parties.

Beirut International Airport Reopens 16 Dec

NC161024 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 16 Dec 83

[Text] Beirut International Airport reopened a few minutes ago, the Voice of Lebanon has learned. The airport has resumed air traffic following contacts in Damascus in the past 2 days and after being closed for several weeks because of the security situation. The Middle East Airways board director, Salim Salam, has called on employees to report for duty immediately. The first airliner is expected to land at Beirut airport, after a long absence, in a few minutes, or during the next hour.

Druze Office Criticizes Attacks on Churches
NC151816 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 15 Dec 83

[Text] The Druze Establishments Permanent Bureau today said that the explosions that were targeted at churches in Al-Musaytibah, Al-Hamra, and at the Shatila Mosque are criminal attempts by sides aimed at inciting sectarian sedition and deepening the gap between their spiritual families, harboring evil for Lebanon and the Lebanese people. The bureau's information officer said that those who are behind these incidents are undoubtedly seeking to destroy and divide Lebanon. He added: The time has come for the Lebanese — officials and nonofficials — to realize that safeguarding of the homeland lies in the unity of the people and that the deliverance of Lebanon lies only in the solidarity of its sons joining together on a solid conciliatory base that will put a final end to their bloody crisis and cut off all external and internal attempts to exploit the differences and fan the destructive fire of division.

Junblatt Denies Presence of Soviet 'Threat'
JN160943 Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 16 Dec 83 pp 1, 17

[Dispatch from Amal Ghandur]

[Text] Amman, *AD-DUSTUR* —In an exclusive interview with Walid Junblatt, Lebanese Progressive Socialist Party leader, by *AD-DUSTUR* and *THE JERUSALEM STAR* in Amman yesterday, Junblatt said that the Lebanese National Reconciliation Conference in Geneva should resume its work because President al-Jumayyil was entrusted by the conferees with the task of discussing with the United States the 17 May Lebanese-Israeli agreement and must brief the conferees on the results of his mission.

Junblatt expressed his desire for the continuation of dialogue among the Lebanese and stressed the need to firmly observe the cease-fire in Lebanon as a condition for the resumption of the National Reconciliation Conference. He suggested forming neutral forces to disengage the warring factions. Otherwise, he said, the military confrontation between these warring factions will continue and there will be a meagre chance for the continuation of dialogue.

Asked whether he suggested the establishment of a homeland for the Druze within the Lebanese entity, he said that his stands and statements emphasize that he supports a unified Lebanon in which there is no room for sectarianism. He added that the legitimacy of the current regime in Lebanon will be threatened if this regime does not allow all the Lebanese factions to participate in any future government on an equal footing. Asked his opinion about the U.S.-Israeli strategic cooperation agreements, Junblatt said he is convinced that the United States wants to use Israel in confronting the so-called Soviet influence in the region. He denied the presence of any Soviet threat in the Middle East and added that the United States wants to humiliate the Arabs and challenge their will in their own countries. Junblatt called for defying the U.S. confrontation in the region at any price. *THE JERUSALEM STAR* will publish the full text of Junblatt's statements in its next issue on Thursday [22 December].

Al-Hariri, Lebanese Intelligence Chief Arrive

JN151913 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1725 GMT 15 Dec 83

[Telephone dispatch by Monte Carlo correspondent in Damascus Louis Faris — live or recorded]

[Excerpt] Saudi mediator Rafiq al-Hariri arrived in Damascus today. Simon Qassis, head of Lebanese Army intelligence, also arrived in Damascus today at the head of a delegation and held talks which were shrouded in absolute secrecy.

Al-Asad Delegates Talas To Deliver Speech

JN152048 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 15 Dec 83

[Excerpt] Under the patronage of President Hafiz al-Asad, commander in chief of the Army and Armed Forces, a ceremony was held this morning marking the graduation of a new group of officers from the Political Military College, which provides our valiant Armed Forces with political guidance officers. Such instruction plays an effective role in preparing fighters capable of meeting the requirements of modern warfare. President al-Asad delegated General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief of the Army and Armed Forces and minister of defense, to preside over the ceremony.

Further Report

JN151727 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1500 GMT 15 Dec 83

[Text] Damascus, 15 Dec (SANA) — General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief of the Army and Armed Forces and minister of defense, has asserted that U.S. claims about being concerned about bringing peace to the Arab region are false allegations aimed at masking conspiratorial plans and spreading U.S.-Zionist hegemony over our region.

In speech he delivered today at a ceremony marking the graduation of a new group of officers from the Political College, Gen Talas affirmed that no one can impose anything on Syria that contradicts its pan-Arab will and firm principles. He also noted that Syria is determined to repulse any act of aggression, regardless of the sacrifices involved. He added: Our country will remain a strong shield in the face of all conspiracies, and our Armed Forces are ready to confront any aggressive U.S.-Israeli action.

Concluding his speech, Gen Talas said that Syria was not surprised by the U.S. move into the phase of direct aggression, that man is a decisive factor, and that the will to fight is stronger than any weapon. He also called for the implementation of President Hafiz al-Asad's slogan: Martyrdom or victory.

The director of the Political College had earlier given a speech in which he praised the command's special concern for the college, stressing the importance of political guidance and its effective role in providing our fighters with ideological training. The top graduate in the course also delivered a speech in which he stressed the importance of the information and experience obtained by the students. He pointed to the role such information and experience plays in their ability to promote political awareness and increase the combat and moral capabilities of their soldiers.

U.S. 'Has Chosen Option of War Against Syria'

JN151733 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 15 Dec 83

[Station commentary]

[Text] The United States has chosen the option of war against Syria without officially declaring that war. The United States has experience in this field. When it became involved in Indochina with half a million soldiers, the United States took actions similar to those which it is now taking in Lebanon. President Reagan has said that he will not enter into war with Syria. But he left the U.S. militarists free to make any decision that they deem appropriate. Reagan has not summoned the Congress to declare a state of war, but he did obtain the U.S. National Security Council's approval that the war against Syria and the Lebanese nationalists should be the duty of the U.S. Navy. Syria neither declared war against the United States nor adopted the option of fighting as an alternative to peace. Nevertheless, it will not open its airspace to U.S. reconnaissance planes and will not place its forces in Lebanon at the mercy of the *New Jersey* or any other U.S. naval unit.

President Reagan and his secretary of state claim that the presence of U.S. Marines in Beirut is legitimate, and that the Syrian presence, which was approved at the highest Arab level and demanded by Lebanon, is illegitimate. Thus, the U.S. Administration has permitted the illegitimate and banned the legitimate. According to Reagan and Shultz, Arab land is no longer Arab. Syria's security, which is part of that of Lebanon, means nothing to the United States as long as that security conflicts with Israel's security claims in Lebanon. Every U.S. official has disclosed that country's military objectives in Beirut. All of them agree that Israel is their ally, that the strategic alliance with Israel serves the interests of the Western world, and that Arab rights do not exist as long as they conflict with the precepts of Zionist thought. Before amassing its fleets off the Lebanese coast and shelling Beirut's children and the inhabitants of the mountain area with cluster bombs, the United States had chosen to be hostile toward the Arabs and to fight them. The Palestinian people have been displaced for more than a generation. The United States refuses to recognize even the existence of these people, and considers their displacement as necessary to Zionist interests and beliefs, which have absorbed racism and hatred.

We in Syria do not remind the United States of the pain it has caused the Arabs for the sake of Israel because we seek to win its affection. We only want to remind it that its position vis-a-vis the Arab cause is nothing less than a declaration of a continuing war. The United States has raised this war from the level of UN Security Council vetoes and opposition to UN resolutions to that of cluster bombs which kill Beirut's women and children and lead the entire region into a situation that does not serve the cause of peace there and in the world at large. The United States often

uses its interests in the Middle East as a pretext. Do U.S. interests lie in leading the world to the abyss and suicide under the pretext of defending a false hypothesis that conflicts with reality and truth? There is no doubt that the United States, as a leader of world imperialism, sees its interests in Israel and with the Zionist leaders. This fact makes it incumbent upon the Arabs — in all their countries — to understand that viewpoint. U.S. interests lie in shedding Arab blood, increasing Arab differences, and robbing the Arab land for the sake of Zionist ambitions.

If the Arabs want to protect their cause, they must take certain measures that will make the White House understand that its interests are neither in Israeli hands nor under its guardianship. Should they use the issue of defending and protecting oil as their pretext to enslave the Arabs and subjugate them to the Zionist decision, or should they use the issue of protecting Phalangist aspirations in Lebanon as their pretext to occupy its territory, the Americans must simply understand that the oil is Arab, that Lebanon is Arab, and that Syria works to save the Arabs in all their countries.

Press on Husayn's 'Plotting,' French Role

JN160807 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 16 Dec 83

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "America's Agents Meet in Paris," *AL-BA'TH* writes: The individual Arab is now certain that the current U.S. intransigence, European arrogance, and Israeli attacks are the mask behind which King Husayn is hiding and working for a new Rhodes on French territory.

King Husayn is in Paris. Israeli Deputy Prime Minister David Levi has left for Paris. 'Arafat's advisers and the Phalangist representative in France are sprawled on the doorstep of the Elysee. It is no coincidence that those who play the tune of Camp David and Reagan's plan are meeting in Paris. Since his assumption of power, French President Mitterrand has been eager to play the European role with a U.S. card. King Husayn is eager for peace, not for Palestine, but for his own throne and dominion. Therefore, he is most enthusiastic over the U.S. role with its political and military aspects. When King Husayn realized that his game and dialogue with 'Arafat could not influence Palestinian stands, he demanded that the United States protect him from the reaction to his plotting. This protection was to come in the form of military action capable of exhausting Syria, or at least diverting its attention from his treason.

Because the French president is better acquainted with the plot than any other European, and because the Reagan administration cannot be an adversary and arbiter at the same time, those who have become the very symbols of the plot found some shelter and hope in Paris. Past experience — which the plotters think has been forgotten — indicates that France, which agreed with the Egyptian regime on an integral plan for a Middle East solution, has been waiting for the proper time to play its role in the U.S. game. It is to play its part on behalf of those in Cairo after having guaranteed the rulers of Baghdad, approached the petrodollar sultans under the U.S. hat, and taken cover under international socialism in order to deceive the Palestinians. In this way they would make use of a rightist clique which sold the homeland, the struggle, and the blood of the martyrs at a cheap price for the sake of maintaining its position of leadership.

AL-BA'TH adds: Syria, in its capacity as the power of the Arabs and representative of the masses' will, has overlooked nothing in its calculations. Palestine is a pan-Arab issue and King Husayn has been the main profiteer from its liquidation, since Palestinian land was divided between him and Israel. The defeated clique, which is obsessed by the desire for leadership, will not be considered by the Palestinians as more important than Palestine itself. Therefore, we tell all those rallying around the U.S. flag at a French table that we are confident of our ability, and that diverting our attention with a declared or undeclared U.S. war will not make us forget Palestine, because everything that Syria has done has been aimed at bringing liberation and restoring usurped rights.

In its "Behind the News" column under the caption "The Arabs and U.S. Aggression," *TISHRIN* writes: By using U.S. forces and fleets to serve Israel's schemes and to strike at Syria and nationalist Lebanon, President Reagan has done nothing less than declare war against the entire Arab nation. Those Arabs who have advocated Reagan's peace initiatives should now break their silence and condemn aggression. This is particularly true now that everyone has realized the dangers posed by such plans, which are Zionist in essence and hostile to the most basic of Arab rights. These plans are currently being translated into bombs to kill Arabs.

Al-Ahmar Receives Jordanian Movement's Delegation

JN151820 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 15 Dec 83

[Text] Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, received a delegation from the Jordanian nationalist movement this morning. The group includes representatives of the Ba'th Party in Jordan, the Jordanian Communist Party, the revolutionary administration committees [as heard], and the Popular Revolutionary Party.

During their meeting with the assistant secretary general, the delegation expressed the support of the Jordanian nationalist movement and the Jordanian masses for Syria in its confrontation of U.S.-Zionist designs and its steadfastness in confronting aggression and its tools.

The delegation also expressed its most sincere greetings and wishes to comrade struggler Hafiz al-Asad on his recovery and return to work so that he might lead the march of Syria and the Arab nation in confronting its enemies and achieving its pan-Arab objectives.

Comrade al-Ahmar briefed the delegation on current developments in the Arab region, with particular emphasis on Lebanon. He pointed out the dangers which the Israeli-U.S. strategic agreement poses for the Arab nation. He also highlighted U.S. involvement in the current battles in Lebanon against Syrian

forces and those of the Lebanese nationalists, the defenders of Lebanon's unity and territorial integrity.

Al-Ahmar described these moves and developments as falling within the framework of preparations for the launching of a U.S.-Israeli act of aggression against Syria. He noted that such an act would be launched for the purpose of subjugating Syria and imposing Israeli-U.S. hegemony over the region. Comrade al-Ahmar stressed to the delegation that Syria is determined to stand fast in the face of this plan, to bravely confront the aggressors, and to resume its struggle in defense of its people, Lebanon, and the honor, future, and destiny of the Arab nation.

Comrade al-Ahmar emphasized the point that Syria is not alone. He said that the Arab masses, their nationalist, pan-Arab, and progressive forces, and the forces of freedom and progress in the world — foremost of which is the USSR — stand beside Syria in its confrontation of imperialism and Zionism and their objectives of expansion and domination.

Comrade al-Ahmar wished the Jordanian nationalist movement success in accomplishing its tasks as part of the nationalist struggle in Jordan and the common pan-Arab struggle to achieve the Arab nation's objectives of liberation and victory.

Arens States Conditions for PLO Evacuation

TA160535 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 16 Dec 83

[Text] Defense Minister Arens has spelled out for the first time what Israel is demanding for the PLO's evacuation from Tripoli. The defense minister was speaking to our Haifa reporter Vivian Royston:

[Begin Arens recording] We are extending our efforts, trying to convince everybody involved that they would be making a very grave mistake if they provided 'Arafat with any kind of assistance, and at the very least we would expect that they would require 'Arafat to give a pledge that he is laying down his arms, that he will never again engage in terrorist activities, that his people will never again engage in terrorist activity. In the absence of that, it is our opinion that no assistance should be given to them in leaving Tripoli. [end recording]

Further Comments on Evacuation

TA152100 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 2050 GMT 15 Dec 83

[Text] Haifa, 15 Dec (ITIM) — "I hope we will not have to reach the point where we will have to open fire at the boats evacuating 'Arafat and the terrorists from Tripoli." This was stated today by Defense Minister Moshe Arens in a talk with the ITIM correspondent in Haifa, Me'ir Shoshani.

The minister noted that the idea that the civilized Arab countries will grant aid to 'Arafat and his people is unreasonable, especially when it is clear that the terrorists who will be evacuated with their arms to other Arab countries in our region will continue with their anti-Israeli activity. The terrorists proved this about a week ago, in the explosion in the Jerusalem bus and in other terrorist acts, not necessarily in Israel.

In answer to a question by the ITIM correspondent, the defense minister said that Israel is exerting maximum efforts to convince all parties concerned that it would be a grave error to grant any aid to 'Arafat and the terrorists.

In answer to a question if this means that Israel will open fire at the evacuating boats the minister answered: "There is no point in speculation at this stage."

Defense Minister Arens, who had returned from Dayr al-Qamar in Lebanon, participated in a memorial ceremony for the Druze fighters who died in Israel's wars, held in the Druze village of Daliyat al-Karmel. The minister noted that the Israeli forces are aiding in evacuating the Christian refugees from the village which had been under siege. The minister expressed the hope that the evacuation of the Christian refugees, although a small step, will prove a first step toward better understanding among all communities in Lebanon and that Lebanon will follow Israel's example in giving equal opportunities to all of its citizens.

The minister, asked about the importance which can be attributed to Israel's aid in evacuating the refugees, said that this proves Israel enjoys the trust of both the Druze and Christian communities in Lebanon.

In answer to a question as to whether the U.S. Army's reaction in Lebanon should be viewed as escalation, the defense minister said he hopes that the Syrians and the PLO will draw the correct conclusions from the U.S. reaction in Lebanon and that this will not lead to unnecessary escalation in our region, since the sole intention of the United States, as expressed by President Reagan, is for Lebanon to again become a free and independent country, for the foreign forces to withdraw from Lebanon, and also for Lebanon no longer to serve as a base for anti-Israeli terrorist activity.

The defense minister further noted that it would be a grave error to grant any aid to 'Arafat and to the terrorists during the evacuation, especially since 'Arafat was not at least made to publicly undertake to lay down his arms and stop the terrorist activity. Since such an undertaking was not made and 'Arafat was not asked to give it, Israel is then opposed to giving any aid to the terrorists during their evacuation from Tripoli.

In answer to a question as to how Israel will conduct itself if 'Arafat is indeed present on one of the Greek or French evacuating ships, Professor Moshe Arens said that if the result is that Israel's appeals to the civilized countries of the world fall on deaf ears, we will then "have to give this much thought and see what can be done."

No Guarantees on Evacuation

TA152009 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 15 Dec 83

[Text] Political circles in Jerusalem said this evening that Israel gave no guarantees or any other promises regarding the Greek ships about to evacuate the terrorists from Tripoli. Our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer notes that this announcement comes in reaction to the Greek Government announcement according to which it received guarantees that its ships will not be hurt.

Peres Returns, Comments on 'Arafat, Lebanon

TA141828 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 14 Dec 83

[Interview with Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres by party affairs correspondent Amnon Nadav at Ben-Gurion Airport, after Peres's return from Europe and United States — live]

[Text] [Nadav] Mr Peres, good day to you. You have just returned froma visit to the United States, and the issue now is the U.S. request [baqasha] that Israel enable the PLO, Yasir 'Arafat to be more precise, to leave Lebanon. What is your position on this issue?

[Peres] In my opinion, we should not disturb the two PLO groups from fighting themselves. I do not see why we should position ourselves on one side against the other. In fact, why should it trouble us that the 4,000 or 5,000 terrorists will leave Lebanon and move to Tunisia? Our threat may achieve contrary results : It may lead to 'Arafat and his people staying on Lebanese territory. We are also presenting him as an Arab patriot who is

the target for the whole of Israel, so to speak, while the other PLO group which is led by Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha] is left in the shadow. As somebody said once, this is a case where we can wish both sides a victory, and it is unnecessary for us to intervene.

[Nadav] Another question, Mr Peres: During your absence from Israel, we did not hear your opinion about the agreement on strategic cooperation with the United States. Your colleagues in the Labor Party expressed opposition to this agreement if it means support for U.S. interests in the region. What is your position on this?

[Peres] I do not think there is a treaty [hoze] on this. I saw that U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, when asked about this by Arab journalists, said: Show me the treaty [hoze] that you are talking about. It was in fact decided to set up committees which will examine joint naval maneuvers. I do not know what the scope of the maneuvers will be. As may be recalled, this is the second time that we have talked of such a strategic agreement, and nothing much came out of this talk the last time around. Let me say in general that it would be very wise of Israel not to give the impression in the United States that we want to drag the United States into a war on our side, or into fighting our war for us. This will not happen in reality, certainly not at this stage. However, this would give rise to quite a bit of opposition.

I also listen closely to what is being said in the United States on the Lebanese war. Here too one should remember that the Multinational Force has its own goal, while the IDF has its separate goal, neither of which is to replace the other. In other words, throughout the history of the State of Israel we insisted that we do not expect U.S. soldiers to fight with us or instead of us, nor do we want U.S. mothers to be worried about such a thing.

HA'ARETZ Comments on 'Arafat Evacuation

TA150903 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 15 Dec 83 p 7

[Commentary by Mikha'el Gerti: "'Arafat Under Pressure"]

[Text] Three times in a week naval ships shelled bases and positions of various Palestinian organizations in the Tripoli area. Beyond the retaliation for the attack against the Jerusalem bus, and beyond the policy of "hitting the terrorists wherever they are," the use of the Navy was a clear signal to the PLO and Yasir 'Arafat. Or, as a senior officer phrased it, "we are pressuring 'Arafat."

Israel's naval presence off the Tripoli coast over the past few months has not been kept secret and the nature of the siege by the Navy was made clear during the exchange of prisoners, when it turned out that 37 of the 100 terrorists released from Israeli prisons were PLO members who had been captured from the decks of ships intercepted by the Navy.

In a situation in which the operational ability to take action exists — even if the action is considered to be a simple one with a low risk — the political question is still basically unanswered: Would an action preventing the evacuation of 'Arafat and his loyalists from Tripoli serve Israeli interests? The answer we hear from several spokesmen and commentators, that Israel has no interest in carrying out such an action, is simplistic; and there is more than a trace of mistaken thinking in the advance statement about nonintervention.

The Middle East chess game has its own rules: The black pieces suddenly rise against each other, but they do not stop threatening the white pieces. The saying that my enemy's enemy is my friend is a crude lie when referring to the Middle East. 'Arafat's difficult situation — he has turned into an "underdog" [last word in English] whose sad eyes are winning the world's sympathy — must not mislead or soothe Israel. Yasir 'Arafat has not been and will not be a lover of Zion just because he has been pushed into a corner by a group of fighters activated by Damascus.

The PLO is still an organizations with aspirations to establish a "secular democratic state" on the ruins of Israel, and despite all its leaders' verbal circumlocutions (and particularly those of moderate spokesmen, may God have mercy on them), not an iota of its avowed intentions has changed. It was the PLO that prevented the United States from imposing a pax Americana on the region, in accordance with the Reagan plan (even though it would have required far-reaching concessions from Israel.) The most practical and terrible expression of this is: It was the PLO that assumed responsibility for the explosion on the bus carrying unsuspecting civilians, women, elderly people, and children through the Jerusalem streets, an explosion in which 5 were killed and 42 wounded.

Beyond the stupidity of such concepts, while pity is being heaped on the head of that organization's leader, the question still remains of whether we should work against the evacuation from Tripoli? For some reason the question is only being raised in one form: "Should Israel capture 'Arafat while he is trying to escape?" Putting the question in this way leads us almost automatically to the answer: "Who should deal with it? Let him escape." However this answer itself reveals a distressing shortsightedness. The variety of possibilities for action at Israel's disposal on the Middle Eastern chess board in Tripoli is much greater, and some of the possible actions require at least another study before they are dismissed as harmful or superfluous.

Israel could stop the arrival of the evacuation ships in Tripoli in advance. Who said the ships could only be stopped when the terrorists are on board? It can certainly be made clear that the area is blocked and there is no entry. Such a step would be a way of putting "heavy pressure" on 'Arafat, and the more pressure the PLO leader is under, the more mistakes he is likely to make, both in his military moves against the rebels and in the political moves. Anyone who gives up such an option in advance — with a kind statement of intentions — is giving up the chance of putting pressure on and causing genuine damage to the PLO's operational capability.

Israel could act through force of arms (from the sea and even from the air) to hit and kill PLO members, and the defined target of such an action would be Yasir 'Arafat. This is a proposal that does not sound good — and arouses natural opposition — but, even so, it is worth studying. In the past, particularly daring actions involving high risks were carried out (especially the Beirut

action), the objective of which was to kill the leaders of the Palestinian organizations, even in their bedrooms. The United States, under Roosevelt's leadership, did not hesitate to shoot at and down the plane in which Admiral Yamamoto, the most skilled and honored Japanese admiral during World War II, was traveling. The decision to hit Yamamoto was made personally by Roosevelt, in accordance with a recommendation by the U.S. naval commanders, who explained that the elimination of the best Japanese strategist, who had planned the attack on Pearl Harbor, would be considered a U.S. military victory. It should be recalled that this was a military man who was fighting in a war against an army, not against children travelling in a bus.

There are also other possibilities for an attack during the evacuation. For instance, we could delay the evacuation with threats and scattered actions, with the goal of creating increasing pressure on 'Arafat and his organization. It would even be possible to try to capture 'Arafat alive and bring him to an Israeli prison; however, the damage inherent in this possibility could be greater than its doubtful benefit. The possibilities of action against someone pushed into a corner arouse horror by their very nature, because of their unfairness. But it would, perhaps, be desirable to avoid getting into a debate using terms such as fair play, since this is a question of no other enemy than 'Arafat's PLO.

The bitter reminder of the PLO's character — the funeral of the young girls Nurit and Eti Pollack from Jerusalem — refutes any attempt to depict the Syrian siege of 'Arafat as brutality against the helpless.

Even if a precise situation evaluation indicates lack of benefits and even possible damage in the international sphere by an Israeli action against the expected evacuation from Tripoli, such an evaluation of the situation is required. Israel has no reason to state its intentions in advance, to give any guarantee for 'Arafat's safe evacuation, or to announce in advance that it will work against such an evacuation. The silence that was preserved on the issue until recently was preferable to the statements — soothing or threatening — now being heard. Israel has no reason to stop putting physical and psychological pressure on 'Arafat. As long as it is a question of low risk actions — such as a naval shelling — there is no reason not to continue to "put heavy pressure on 'Arafat."

Press on PLO Evacuation

TA150830 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0430 GMT 15 Dec 83

[From the review of morning press editorials]

[Text] *DAVAR* notes that the lack of clarity as to Israel's intentions and positions regarding 'Arafat's departure from Tripoli do not denote an expression of policy, but reflect the thick fog shrouding the government's modus operandi. Possibly, without clarifying its intentions, Jerusalem will admit that despite its opposition to and dissatisfaction with international efforts being made to rescue 'Arafat and his people, it has neither the ways nor the means to prevent 'Arafat from leaving Levbanon, nor has it any intention of doing so.

'AL HAMISHMAR writes that judging by the plethora of statements made by Cabinet ministers in the last few days on the remnants of 'Arafat's forces in Tripoli, we get the feeling that there is a state of total confusion here. If the government in effect wants to prevent 'Arafat's evacuation from Lebanon, it must come out and say so publicly, and explain to public opinion in the country what the motive is for this change in Israel's policy. Are we trying to compel 'Arafat to stay put in Lebanon until the IDF and Syrian Army pull out? This flexing of muscle on Israel's part is embarrassing, even to the United States, which can hardly be suspected now of harboring particular sympathy for the PLO. To evacuate 'Arafat is virtually tantamount to expelling him from Lebanon, and the more foreign forces are pushed out of there, the better for Lebanon itself. Instead of decreasing our involvement in Lebanon and speeding up our total withdrawal from there, the government is apparently trying to revert to the days of Sharon, when Israel had a finger in every Lebanese pie.

HA'ARETZ on U.S. Position

TA151234 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 15 Dec 83 p 7

[Commentary by Gid'on Samet: "They Want Him Alive"]

[Text] It was sooner than some expected, but a pin has been stuck into the understanding with the United States, declared once again only 2 weeks ago. The disagreement over the evacuation from Tripoli is the first, and certainly not the last, expression of the basic differences in approach between us and the Americans. Even at his nadir, 'Arafat still reminds us that he is holding a tool capable of disrupting our relations with the United States from time to time.

There are few things to which the Government of Israel is more sensitive than the "murderers' organization." And lo and behold, while Israel is doing its best to stop the departure of 'Arafat and his men, the Reagan administration is supporting it. This week the PLO was behind an evil murder; and while families are still burying their loved ones, Washington is explaining its position with "humanitarian reasons."

Even somebody who thinks that Israel should not intervene in the evacuation, such as the writer of these words, should be amazed once again at the blindness of this view. Apart from this view, Washington has given a seemingly naive explanation that this, right here, is a question of the achievement of a common objective: the evacuation of all foreign forces (what would it say if Israel were to now leave Lebanon?).

However, what is in question here is not views of one sort or another, but a clear U.S. stand. There can be no mistake about the U.S. reasoning: Despite all its disappointments, it still thinks that a live 'Arafat would be better than a dead one. As it sees it, quite simply, it is not a matter of a choice between him and more extremist rivals, who are supported by Syria. The U.S. courting of Husayn continues and in an election year, with Reagan involved in one Middle East problem, it will be important for him to show progress in another one.

The chance for this is no better now than when the Husayn-'Arafat contacts failed last spring. However, the PLO, as is its custom, is continuing, in its distress, to sow signs of hope. A representative of the organization in Amman and 'Arafat's aide, Hani al-Hasan, told *LE MONDE* this week that from his talks with Husayn he had formed the impression that the Jordanian king was "willing to discuss any new idea if it is practical." The PLO, he added, concluded from this that Husayn would be prepared to reexamine "points in the working paper he drew up from his talks with the PLO chairman." 'Arafat's deputy expressed himself more or less to the contrary, but the United States is apparently not prepared to give up the chance that something, nevertheless, will come out of the renewal of 'Arafat's activity.

Words Israel would not like to hear also came from Secretary of State Shultz and his aides this week on the issue of strategic cooperation. The tone changed from the moment they stood in Arab countries, for the first time since the Shamir-Arens talks in Washington.

THE WASHINGTON POST related that Shultz's aides in Morocco were prevented from using the term strategic cooperation with Israel and said the "term had not been used" in talks with Shamir. Shultz himself told correspondents that he "did not know how to characterize the relations in two or three words."

His entourage added that he could not "remain indifferent" to the expression of Arab opposition to links with Israel, and also that he was not one of the people liable to surrender to pressure of this type, "he is now doing his best to understand the problem."

If it was possible, one could say that this is the usual balancing act by the United States, but this does not apply to the PLO evacuation. Here the difference is clear: Israel objects; the United States supports. The U.S. Administration wants to go on examining the possibility, however vague, it thinks is to be found in 'Arafat's ability to maneuver.

The impression is that the Government of Israel understands this very well. It wants 'Arafat's death for reasons of revenge and punishment, not in order to decrease acts of terrorism; these may perhaps even increase if Israel harms him. The reason is, first and foremost, the opposite of what its great friend wants. What is now happening in Tripoli is a fight not only for the life of the Fatah leader, but, first of all, for an improvement in positions toward the next round in the political argument over the West Bank.

YEDI'OT AHARONOT Comments

TA151250 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 15 Dec 83

[From the midday press editorials]

[Text] *YEDI'OT AHARONOT* writes that one thing was not taken into account by those democratic countries which are now making such efforts to rescue 'Arafat and bring him, hale, hearty, and victorious, out of Tripoli. They have forgotten that 'Arafat also represents the greater part of international terrorism in our day — German, Italian, Irish, Iranian, and Central American — they all came to learn from him and draw inspiration from him. Therefore, to back 'Arafat now is to encourage the entire terrorist camp of the world, while concurrently bestowing a laurel wreath on their mentor and guide.

Tripoli Shelled 15 December

TA160511 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 16 Dec 83

[Text] Israeli naval craft last night shelled terrorist positions and roadblocks south and north of Tripoli harbor. There were no Israeli casualties. The ships reported accurate hits. It is reported that shots were fired at the ships from the coast, but, as stated, there were no casualties.

SAM's Fired at Planes North of Dayr al-Qamar

TA160830 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 16 Dec 83 p 1

[Report by Menahem Horowitz]

[Excerpt] Israeli military sources in Dayr al-Qamar said surface-to-air missiles were fired at two Israeli planes on reconnaissance just north of the town. The planes were not hit.

Israeli Firm To Repair U.S. 6th Fleet Vessel

TA160856 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 16 Dec 83 p 3

[Text] The Israel Shipyards has been awarded a contract to repair the U.S. Sixth Fleet assault troop-landing ship, the *USS Trenton*, which arrived here from off Beirut on Wednesday, *THE JERUSALEM POST* learned. The job, described as a major repair, is expected to take about a fortnight and will cost tens of thousands of dollars. This is the first time that the Sixth Fleet is sending a combat ship to the Israeli facility for repairs.

Shamir, Rumsfeld Meet 16 Dec; No Details Released

TA161115 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 16 Dec 83

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir had a tete a-tete with U.S. envoy Donald Rumsfeld. Our political correspondent notes that no minutes were taken during the talks, something which is unusual in such talks. Ambassador Rumsfeld refused to talk to correspondents, explaining that talking might harm his mission.

HA'ARETZ: Zaray Comments on Rumsfeld Efforts

TA131025 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 12 Dec 83p 9

[Commentary by 'Oded Zaray: "Lebanon: Another Round of Playing the Same Old Tune"]

[Text] These days, on the eve of Christmas, people in Beirut tend to hang onto any trace of hope for better times. Although the

shops have been decorated and remain open late at night, there are few customers. A store chain has announced a 2- week special campaign on the eve of the new year. This is the same period of time the new U.S. envoy, Donald Rumsfeld, alloted to the mission he began soon after his earlier mission to get acquainted with the area. Businessmen are inclined to believe that their "salvation" will begin at the end of this 2 weeks and that the U.S. President's envoy will this time not return empty-handed from Damascus. However, in private talks with incumbent political figures, once again one hears the old words of "a new round of playing the same old tune." In other words, there is hardly any chance that the new U.S. diplomatic offensive in the Lebanese arena will produce any results.

This feeling about Rumsfeld's tour emerged shortly after Amin al-Jumayyil's arrival in Washington. The reason for his third visit to the United States since he was elected Lebanese president was to analyze the condition of the Israeli-Lebanese agreement of 17 May and to bring about the withdrawal of all foreign forces and the extension of Lebanese sovereignty to the entire country as had been agreed in Geneva. The agreement was regarded as the only acceptable and orderly framework to achieve this end. Hence, and based on explicit U.S. statements in favor of the agreement, people in Al-Jumayyil's entourage expected that upon their arrival in Washington the first thing they would be asked to do is ratify the agreement. However, surprisingly enough, the exact opposite occurred. The Americans wanted to wait a while longer rather than make a move which might "push the Syrians to extremism." In other words, the U.S. Administration has not yet changed its basic concept regarding Syria, although it would appear that President Reagan's declarations pointed to a substantial change.

This fact was corroborated in behind-the-scenes contacts held last week between Washington and Damascus regarding the U.S. Air Force attack on the Syrian positions in the Al-Matn range. U.S. officials made plain to their Syrian counterparts that there had been no intention to launch an aggressive operation against Syria, neither in retaliation for the booby-trapped truck at Khaldah nor as a military means of pressure on the Lebanese issue. They went on to say that the U.S. air attack was not in any way related to the strategic understanding with Israel and that the United States considered it an "inevitable" act of defense. Those officials reiterated the fact that the United States recognizes that Syria has vital interests in Lebanon and that it wants to continue the dialogue through Rumsfeld's renewed mission.

U.S. Administration officials did not just ask President al-Jumayyil that for the time being he not ratify the 17 May agreement. The other and more important request — which was portrayed as a demand rather than a request — was that Lebanon resume its "courting" of Damascus. The Lebanese Government was asked to strive to coordinate positions with Syria in everything pertaining to "national reconciliation" and to emphasize that Lebanon belongs in the Arab world in all its declarations and moves. When a senior official in Al-Jumayyil's entourage pointed out that this request was incompatible with the agreement of 17 May, he was told that "everything may be reassessed." At the same time, the Lebanese were asked to make practical moves to expand the jurisdiction of the central government to the east and the south, and they were told such action would also be acceptable to the Israeli Government. The formulation in Washington was: extending the sovereignty of all branches of the Lebanese Government "to all areas that are not controlled by the Syrians." The Americans were explicit and concise; they even outlined a general plan which the Lebanese Government was asked to implement.

People in Washington agree that the jurisdiction of the Lebanese central government cannot be expanded to the east or the south as long as it does not massively control the Beirut metropolitan area, including the southern suburbs. However, what is first of all necessary to control those areas is to purge them of the various armed organizations which not only threaten the Lebanese Army, but also threaten the Marines' positions in Khaldah and West Beirut. U.S. common sense says that the southern suburbs cannot be purged without the rationale of a "balanced purge," namely, disarming the Christian "Lebanese Forces" in the eastern quarters of Beirut and north of them.

It should be remembered that the Lebanese Forces headquarters last summer heeded similar requests to help the president enforce the central government's control over metropolitan Beirut. In the framework of the agreement between the president and the Lebanese Forces, the latter withdrew their heavy weapons from the capital, thinned out their units, and moved their training bases elsewhere. At the same time, and for the first time since the "Lebanese opposition" began in April 1975 and until the Peace for Galilee operation, the Lebanese Forces succeeded in defending Christian areas in Beirut, Kasrawan, and Al-Matn stretching over 2,000 square km and paid for it with the lives of 5,000 fighters. All the attempts by the PLO and the Syrians to penetrate and take over those areas have failed.

This fact inspired the B'abda Presidential Palace even if for the last 9 years it has merely been a symbol of the central government. To this day, many Christian leaders regard the Lebanese Forces not just as a force defending the existence of the Christian community but also as a reliable support for the central government headed by a Maronite president, all the more so in the case of the current president. As far as they are concerned, implementation of the U.S. request would be suicidal on the part of Amin al-Jumayyil. The very talk about an "excuse" makes it plain to every senior Lebanese figure that U.S. logic regarding the Lebanese problem is distorted. The central government would not be one in the full sense of the word if it has to resort to excuses to exercise its fundamental right to self-defense anchored in the Constitution and in line with norms acceptable all over the world. The Lebanese Army needs no excuse to defend itself against the artillery fire of Shi'ite and other extremist organizations. According to U.S. logic, before it returns fire at the source of fire in the southern suburbs, the Lebanese Army should, for example, shell the headquarters of the Lebanese Forces in East Beirut for the sake of a "balanced purge."

For the moment, this plan is merely a suggestion although two U.S. officials made the effort of going to East Beirut 2 weeks ago to test the reaction of Christian leaders. Meanwhile, Syria is once again at the top of U.S. priorities. Rumsfeld will probably not confer with President Hafiz al-Asad in Damascus as Lebanese Foreign Minister Elie Salim — who was the last non-Syrian official to visit Damascus after Libyan Prime Minister 'Abd

al-Salim Jallud — predicted yesterday. During the next 2 weeks, Rumsfeld is supposed to report to Washington whether the Syrians have changed their basic positions regarding Lebanon and whether they are ready to negotiate the evacuation of their troops.

The Lebanese assessment, based on the talks Salim held in Damascus and Riyadh, is that the beginning of a change is emerging in the Syrian position. Nevertheless, this change is not connected either to the attack by U.S. aircraft 2 weeks ago, Israeli warnings, Israeli-U.S. strategic understanding, or Soviet declarations of support for Syria. The change may stem from the internal situation in Syria and Al-Asad's prospects. The feeling is that Damascus is currently undergoing a period of inaction and inability to make decisions but, nevertheless, it does not want to take any risks. However, without a substantial internal change which would require an appropriate change in Syrian policy regarding Lebanon, Rumsfeld — just as his predecessors — is expected to play the same old tune for the next 2 weeks.

Shamir Pays West Bank First Visit as Premier

TA151339 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 15 Dec 83

[Text] Today, for the first time since Yitzhaq Shamir became prime minister of Israel, he visited the settlement of Ari'el in Samaria. When the prime minister returned from his talks in Washington a few days ago, the leaders of the Judaea and Samaria settlers presented him with an invitation, and today the prime minister complied with it, paying a visit to Ari'el, on which he was accompanied by our correspondent Shalom Oren. Oren brings us some of the statements made by the prime minister:

[Begin Shamir recording] We here in Israel are having to cope with a great many problems, with heavy tasks that have been entrusted to us. We must overcome enormous difficulties, and all of this must be tackled at one and the same time. We cannot put off anything, but above all, we cannot delay the settlement drive in Judaea and Samaria and Gaza. It is the main thing that guides us, leads us. This is the yardstick that we shall have to use, in the present and in the future, in assessing whether we are in effect fulfilling our task, whether we are faithful to our obligation. I believe, seeing all this — everything I saw this morning, the pioneer industry plants, the private initiative — I believe, I am confident we are making progress, and I congratulate all those who have linked their fate and their future to these parts of the country. May their labors be blessed. If they succeed, then the entire people of Israel will succeed in all its efforts. [end recording]

The prime minister is visiting Elon More and after that, under pressure of the settlement leaders, he will pay a brief visit to Joseph's Tomb in Nabulus.

Remarks on Settlements, 'Arafat

TA151619 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1530 GMT 15 Dec 83

[Text] Stonethrowing at Jewish settlers' cars in Judaea and Samaria is a marginal problem and does not call for a different policy in these regions. This was stated today by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir in the course of a tour which he held in a number of Judaea and Samaria settlements. Shamir told the settlers that he is consulting with the defense minister and the chief of staff on ways to handle the security problems in Judaea and Samaria. Our correspondent Asher Fisch accompanied Shamir on his tour in Judaea and Samaria:

[Begin recording] [Fisch] Yitzhaq Shamir today held a comprehensive tour in a number of Samaria settlements, including Nofim, Ari'el, Qarne Shomron, Elon More, Berakha, and Pesagot. The settlers invited the prime minister to hear about the security problems arising there lately, and in a talk which was held in the Berakha settlement they demanded that the punishments be made significantly graver, that people be deported to Jordan and that the instructions for the opening of fire by IDF soldiers be changed. According to the settlers the instructions are meaningless in the eyes of the Arabs.

Mr Shamir's answer was categorical and different from what had been expected by the settlers:

[Shamir] Let us not turn this matter, these crimes or stonethrowing, into a matter which characterizes and defines the relations between the Jews living in these places and the regional Arabs. This is not true. The throwing of stones is done by a few elements who are not the determining factors in the Arab public in these regions. This is a marginal problem which should be overcome and should be removed from the arena. This is clear. This does not, however, compel us to adopt a different overall policy. I know that you have spoken with the defense minister and the chief of staff on a number of occasions. They are worried about this and are handling the issue. This is apparently not an easy problem. There is apparently no easy solution to this, but I have no doubt that there will be a solution soon.

[Fisch] There are no disagreements between the present government and the settlers in Judaea and Samaria. Mr Shamir said, but when we talk of problems of stonethrowing or problems of a lack of momentum in building in Judaea and Samaria, let us not forget that we are listened to and our weaknesses are sought, that there are many who want to see the rifts and disagreements as proof that this is not the right road. Therefore, Shamir said, we should be careful about our remarks and our deeds.

At the end of the tour, in the settlement of Pesagot, Shamir held a short conference in which he answered correspondents' questions on other, topical issues. Following is the prime minister's reply to the question as to whether Israel promised to make possible the exit of 'Arafat's men from Tripoli.

[Shamir] Israel did not undertake, nor will it ever undertake, anything regarding the most dangerous and extreme enemy of Israel — Yasir 'Arafat and his friends, his murderers. We have only one attitude toward this organization: It is an enemy and we will treat it the way enemies should be treated. [end recording]

Shamir: Settlements To Continue

TA151916 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1805 GMT 15 Dec 83

[Question addressed to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by settlement affairs correspondent Rami Gubernik, in the course of a visit to Judaea and Samaria settlements on 15 December — videotaped]

[Text] [Gubernik] Mr Prime Minister, there is an initiative by MK Dror Zeigerman who claims settlements should be frozen so as to prepare the ground for negotiations with Jordan. Will you support such a possibility?

[Shamir] I believe our answer is clear. The Israeli Government is bound to continue settlements in all parts of Eretz Yisra'el. I do not think this has anything to do with political negotiations with any of our neighbors. As for King Husayn, only a few days ago he said his position is clear, that he wants total withdrawal. There is no connection between this and whether anybody indeed proposes that settlements be frozen or not. It is clear that this somebody too will not agree to a total withdrawal. Therefore, this problem is not only not topical but is also irrelevant.

IDF Completes Evacuation of 2,000 Phalange Fighters

TA151320 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 15 Dec 83

[Text] The IDF has completed the evacuation of 2,000 Phalange fighters from Dayr al-Qamar near Sidon. Our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal reports from Sidon that the evacuation proceeded well. The evacuation was from Dayr al-Qamar to Sidon.

Arens Visits Dayr al-Qamar

TA151407 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1350 GMT 15 Dec 83

[Text] Defense Minister Moshe Arens this afternoon visited Dayr al-Qamar and Jazzin to which some of the Dayr al-Qamar Christian residents were evacuated. In a talk with correspondents, the defense minister noted that all of the IDF actions today were done for humanitarian reasons. He added that today the IDF armored vehicle acted in the mission of peace. The defense minister expressed the hope that Israel's activity today will enhance the understanding between the Druze and the Christians in Lebanon. If by doing this we have contributed something toward this understanding, this is our reward. Our correspondent in the north Menahem Horowitz conveyed the defense minister's remarks.

Lubrani Comments on Evacuation

TA160602 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 2155 GMT 15 Dec 83

[Text] Haifa, 15 Dec (ITIM) — The sick and wounded evacuated from the Crhistian village of Dayr al-Qamar are being transferred to Beirut for medical treatment. This was stated on Thursday by the coordinator of government activities in Lebanon, Uri Lubrani, to the ITIM Haifa correspondent, Me'ir Shoshani.

Lubrani, who on Thursday followed the Dayr al-Qamar evacuation closely, noted that on the first day the Phalangists were moved out and that evacuation activities would continue for another day or two. He thought some 2,200 Phalangists would be evacuated, as well as Christian Lebanese civilians who were staying in the besieged village. These would be moved out and would be given assistance by the International Red Cross.

Chief of Staff Moshe Levi stated in reply to a question, that the Dayr al-Qamar evacuation was proceeding as planned, and Israel is responsible for implementation of the agreement reached between the sides. He expressed the hope that the settlement reached between the Druze and Christians on Dayr al-Qamar would also be reflected in future cooperation between these two communities in Lebanon.

Lebanese Government Violating Agreement

TA151918 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1805 GMT 15 Dec 83

[Excerpt] Let us now go over to the evacuation operation from Dayr al-Qamar: The first stage proceeded without any hitches, upon the evacuation of about 2,000 Phalangists and 500 Christian refugees. However, our Arab affairs correspondent notes that the Lebanese Government did not fulfill its commitment to release an official announcement today regarding the evacuation agreement reached with Israel. According to the formulation that had been agreed upon, the Beirut government should have presented the evacuation as an agreement achieved in the deliberations of the joint Israeli-Lebanese military committee. In contrast, the representative of the Lebanese Forces in Jerusalem today thanked Israel for its intervention on this matter.

The Beirut Christian radio stations now claim that a force of Lebanese security personnel who were on their way to Dayr al-Qamar was attacked by Druze and that seven soldiers were wounded. However, IDF sources report no confirmation as yet although Israeli soldiers are present in the area.

Coordination With Al-Jumayyil Sought on Shi'ites

TA151146 Tel Aviv BAMAHANE in Hebrew 14 Dec 83 p 5

[Report by Ya'ir Lapid]

[Text] "Israel is interested in working in southernLebanon in coordination with the central administration in Beirut." This is reported by security sources. In the future, the sources say, Israel hopes to transfer policing of the area to Lebanese military units. However, no timetable has yet been set for this transfer.

In the view of these sources, the possibility of using the Shi'ites in the south as a buffer between Israel and the terrorists also depends on the central administration in Beirut, since even moderate Shi'ite elements are refusing to cooperate with Israel, but they might agree to work with Al-Jumayyil's administration.

At the same time, Israel is also working to create a situation in which an agreement between the Druze in the Ash-Shuf and the Al-Jumayyil administration would be made possible through various means in order to get the terrorists out of the Ash-Shuf area. The PLO presence is now restricted to the region north of the Ad-Damur River.

The IDF presence in the eastern sector, the sources add, is also linked to the extent of the stability of the central administration. "If we were to leave the valley, it would be a death blow to the central administration."

Minister Levi on Al-Asad's 'Heart Attack'

TA161051 Tel Aviv DA'AR in Hebrew 16 Dec 83 p 1

["Exclusive" report from Paris by Gid'on Kuts]

[Text] "According to information Israel has, Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad suffered a heart attack and his condition is grave," Deputy Prime Minister David Levi said at a news conference in Paris.

Last night Levi, together with Deputy French Education Minister (Roger Gerard Schwerzenberger), MK Dror Zeigerman, and Chief Rabbi (Rene Sirat), attended the opening of the congress marking the 40th anniversary of the students union at the Sorbonne in France.

Government Presents 1985 Aid Request to U.S.

TA151426 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 15 Dec 83

[Text] Israel today presented its 1985 economic aid request to the United States — $3 billion — which Israel is asking to receive as a grant.

Our correspondent Gadi Sukenik was told by Finance Ministry sources that according to the estimation, there will still be a gap of $3.3 billion which includes defense purchases. It was also reported that the expenses for security this year amounted to $3 billion and next year they will reach $4 billion. Payments on debts by Israel increased from about $400 million in 1970 to $3.6 billion this year. About a third of this sum is paid by Israel to the United States.

November Price Index Rises 15.2 Percent

TA151515 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 15 Dec 83

[Text] The consumer price index increased in November by 15.2 percent. In the first 11 months of the year the index increased by 160.5 percent. Our correspondent Gadi Sukenik notes that the November index increase is the highest ever in this month since the establishment of the state. Most of the increase is due to the following: food — an increase of 18 percent; housing maintenance — an increase of 17 percent; clothing and footwear — an increase of 13 percent; and public transport and postage — 18 percent.

The Bureau of Statistics also reported that the wholesale price index of the industrial output [tefuqat hata'asiya] increased by about 19 percent and the price index of the construction inputs [tesumot lebniya ulemegurim] increased by 11 percent.

Egyptian Envoys Complain of 'Hostile Acts'

NC151648 Paris AFP in English 1639 GMT 15 Dec 83

[Text] Jerusalem, Dec 15 (AFP) — Egyptian diplomats assigned to Tel Aviv have been the targets of hostile acts by unknown persons and have lately had their cars ransacked, Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Butrus Ghali has said.

"Our diplomats in Tel Aviv are harassed while (Israeli) representatives in Cairo have suffered no mistreatment," Mr. Ghali said in an interview to appear in tomorrow's edition of the daily *HA'ARETZ*.

Faruq Mabruk, first secretary in the Egyptian Embassy in Tel Aviv, has said that three members of his staff complained to the police this week that their vehicles were damaged while parked near their homes or in the parking lot of the Tel Aviv port.

A police spokesman confirmed to *HA'ARETZ* that the complaints had been made.

Sa'd Murtada, the Egyptian ambassador to Israel, was recalled to Cairo in the summer of 1982 to protest the Israeli invasion of Lebanon and has not yet returned to his post.

Egyptian Editor on Press Treatment of Israel

TA150842 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 15 Dec 83 p 2

[Interview with Anis Mansur, editor of *OCTOBER*, by 'Aqiva Eldar: "We Have No Reason To Concede on the Issues of the PLO, Tabah, and Autonomy" — date and place not given]

[Text] [Eldar] Our embassy staff in Cairo complain that the Egyptian press is ignoring them. Did you refuse to publish the official denial of the report that Shamir had demanded the United States impose sanctions on Egypt?

[Mansur] I was given the report by a most reliable source in Washington. After the denial by the embassy spokesman, I reexamined the report, and I am sure that it is correct. I will send Shamir a word processor for the new year, one that will arrange what he said, where and when, and find the contradictions for him.

[Eldar] Do you justify accusatory articles, including the one which said Israel was nothing but another neighbor? And why is Egypt trying to influence the press along the lines of the Soviet Union?

[Mansur] Why should you think these are accusing words? Every journalist is entitled to write what he thinks about Israel. Are you no longer a neighbor? Altogether, it is hard to be moderate in the situation created following Israel's behavior.

[Eldar] You are considered to be one of the few journalists who supported peace. Have you have any second thoughts?

[Mansur] The Government of Israel is supplying the newspaper editors and intellectuals who opposed peace from the beginning with sufficient reasons. After Sabra and Shatila, the bombing of the Iraqi reactor, and Lebanon, they have an excuse at last for their opposition to peace.

[Eldar] Are not the accusatory articles jeopardizing normalization?

[Mansur] I always thought that peace was the greatest achievement, but, as in love, it should not be taken for granted. It must be renewed every day. I am now disappointed and disillusioned.

[Eldar] Do you really believe that all the blame is on the Israeli side?

[Mansur] We are not gods, to whom one must bow down. Of course the matter is not one-sided. The Palestinian problem divides us and we have no reason to concede. I am not only referring to 'Arafat and the PLO, but also to the problem of Tabah and to autonomy.

Egypt Rejects Israeli Participation in Fair

TA151051 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 15 Dec 83 p 2

[Report by Tuvya Mendelson]

[Text] Egypt has rejected Israel's request to participate in the International Book Fair that is to open in Cairo in about a month. Israel was told that the request to participate in the fair had been received late and there was no place left in the fair for the Israeli stand. Authoritative sources said yesterday that it appears the Egyptian reply is not final. They said the Egyptians claim that other countries which had put in their requests late, such as Iraq, would not be able to participate in the fair. Despite the official explanations from Egypt, and Jerusalem confirmationthat Israel sent its request late, political sources think the rejection of Israel's request is another expression of the Egyptian policy contradicting the spirit of the Camp David agreements. Israeli-Egyptian relations were also discussed in the talks the prime minister and defense minister held in Washington. Some time ago Jerusalem denied that Yitzhaq Shamir had asked the United States, in his talks in Washington, to impose sanctions on Egypt until it acted in accordance with the spirit of the Camp David agreements. The *DAVAR* correspondent points out that people in Jerusalem are also disappointed with the Egyptian policy against the background of the talks held not long ago in Cairo by Foreign Ministry Director General Davic .imche and the ministry's legal adviser, Elyaqim Rubinstein Je usalem had hoped that Kimche's talks would be a turning point for a resumption of the dialogue between the two countries. Egypt's promise that a senior Egyptian official would come to Israel to continue the talks begun in Cairo with Kimche and Rubinstein has also not been kept so far.

Ambassador in Paris Meets Chinese Counterpart

TA151425 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 15 Dec 83 p 1

[Text] Israel's ambassador to Paris 'Ovadya Sofer yesterday arrived at the VIP lounge in the Roissy Airport in order to receive Deputy Prime Minister David Levi and was surprised to see tens of Chinese dressed in the traditional Mao tunics. His surprise and the surprise of his press attache, Nisim (Taito) increased even further when former Cambodian ruler, Prince Norodom Sihanouk, approached them, shook hands and spoke of his memories of "those nice days of the past when friendship prevailed between Israel and Cambodia." Immediately afterward the Chinese ambassador to France approached them. Ambassador Sofer told him: "Look, we are meeting here, the representatives of two ancient cultures and nations: one gigantic, yours, and the other tiny, mine; and we both have things in common." The Chinese ambassador warmly shook the hands of the Israelis and said: "It is desirable that we meet in Paris again and continue this talk of ours."

West German Chancellor To Visit 24 January

TA151204 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1156 GMT 15 Dec 83

[Text] It was reported officially from Jerusalem and Bonn at noon that the West German chancellor and his wife will make an official visit to Israel on 24 January 1984. The visit will last 5 days.

Italy's Andreotti To Visit 21-23 December

AU151924 Rome ANSA in English 1915 GMT 15 Dec 83

[Text] (ANSA) Rome, December 15 — Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti announced plans today to visit Israel from December 21 to 23 in response to an invitation from Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir. The visit, Foreign Ministry sources said, fits into the Rome Government's policy of staying in frequent contact with all countries in the Middle East as well as of being a member to the multinational peacekeeping force in Lebanon.

The diplomatic purpose of this policy, the same sources added, is to try to help break the deadlock in the regional situation and put the peace process back into motion. It was against this same background that Andreotti made his recent trip to Syria and, with Italian chief-of-state Sandro Pertini, to Jordan.

Israel and Italy do not always see eye to eye on all issues in the Middle East crisis, but Rome still wants to keep the dialogue going for the sake of taking all "realistic" positions into consideration for a breakthrough.

Portuguese-Speaking African Countries Meet

LD151026 Lisbon Domestic Service in Portuguese 2300 GMT 14 Dec 83

[Text] The second ministerial conference of the five Portuguese-speaking African countries — Guinea-Bissau, Cape Verde, Angola, Sao Tome and Principe, and Mozambique — opened in Bissau today. A review of the international political situation and the issue of East Timor are the major topics on the agenda. From Bissau, a report by our special correspondent, Jaime Marques de Almeida:

[Begin recording] The ministerial conference devoted to preparations for the summit meeting involving the heads of state of the five Portuguese-speaking African countries opened here in Bissau late this afternoon. The delegates will examine the international political situation, the issue of East Timor, as well as political and diplomatic cooperation among the five countries. They will also evaluate the progress of their economic cooperation and outline a program of action for next year.

The five countries' delegations are led by their respective ministers of foreign affairs. The opening speech was delivered by the host minister, Fidelis Cabral Almada, who called for unity among the five. He described such unity as possible, despite the fact that the five belong to different geopolitical regions. The Guinea-Bissau foreign minister expressed the solidarity of the five with the people of East Timor, and harshly attacked South Africa, which he accused of destabilizing legitimate governments. He accused Pretoria of genocide, terrorism, and delays in settling the Namibian question.

The Cape Verdian foreign minister, Silvino da Luz, also delivered a speech. He stressed the consolidation of political solidarity and the building of economic solidarity.

The session adjourned [passage indistinct]. At the proposal of [passage indistinct] Fidelis Cabral was made chairman [of the conference], while Maria Graca Amorim, foreign minister of Sao Tome, was chosen to be deputy chairman. From that point on, the press was excluded from the proceedings. [end recording]

ALGERIA

Libyan Envoy Delivers Message From Al-Qadhdhafi

LD151231 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 15 Dec 83

[Text] Mohamed Ben Ahmed Abdelghani, member of the Political Bureau and prime minister, received a Libyan official at Government House this morning. The envoy, in charge of the Jamahiriyah Bureau in Algeria, brought a message from Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to President Chadli Bendjedid.

The secretary general of the prime minister's office was also present during the audience.

MAURITANIA

Haydala Discusses Trip to Algeria, Tunisia

AB160706 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 1430 GMT 15 Dec 83

[Text] The CMSN Standing Committee met this morning under the chairmanship of Lieutenant Colonel Mohamed Khouna Ould Haydala, chairman of the CMSN and head of state. The head of state returned to Nouakchott last night from Tunis and Algiers, where he paid friendly working visits at the invitation of Their Excellencies Presidents Habib Bourguiba of Tunisia and Chadli Bendjedid of Algeria.

While in the capitals of those two countries, the chairman of the CMSN and head of state signed the Maghreb Treaty of Fraternity and Accord.

On his arrival in Nouakchott last night, the head of state was greeted by Colonel Maayouia Ould Sid Ahmed Taya, prime minister and minister of national defense, who took care of outstanding matters in the absence of the head of state; Captain (Ouillad Ould Medoum), governor of the district of Nouakchott; and by military and civilian officials in the office of the head of state. After greeting members of the CMSN and the government, as well as several other high officials present at the airport, the head of state granted a press conference, during which he discussed the outcome of his visits to Algeria and Tunisia. Let us now listen to this press conference:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] Mr President, you have just returned from a trip to Algiers and Tunis, where you signed two important documents concerning both our borders and our membership in the Maghreb Treaty of Fraternity and Accord, which already binds Algeria to Tunisia within the framework of establishing a Greater Maghreb. Could you give us your impressions of these two events, starting with the convention which demarcates our border with Algeria?

[Haydala] Well, as you said, I have returned home from a trip which took me to Algiers and Tunis. While in Algeria, I signed an agreement with that country's authorities on the demarcation of our common border. We wanted this act to serve as a sign of our respect for the OAU principles of the inviolability of the borders inherited from the colonialists, peaceful coexistence among nations, and noninterference in the internal affairs of other states.

As you know, there are no border problems between us and Algeria. Therefore, this agreement was signed primarily for the benefit of future generations, as it will help avoid any silly conflicts that might disturb the development and well-being of bilateral cooperation. We believe that this border demarcation agreement will not be a barrier between our two countries, but rather a point from which bilateral cooperation and trade may be fraternally developed.

[Reporter] Mr President, what significance do you attach to our accession to the Treaty of Fraternity and Accord, which now binds our country to Algeria and Tunisia?

[Haydala] Our participation in this Treaty of Fraternity and Accord — which already binds Algeria and Tunisia — undoubtedly represents an important step toward building the Greater Maghreb, a Greater Maghreb which, as you know, is a high aspiration of all people throughout the region. We hope that other states in the region will join us in building the Greater Maghreb based on mutual trust, freedom, unity, peace, and concord.

[Reporter] Mr President, we know you held talks with Presidents Habib Bourguiba of Tunisia and Chadli Bendjedid of Algeria. May we know what subjects you discussed?

[Haydala] It is true that I held talks with Presidents Chadli Bendjedid and Bourguiba. Our talks centered on ways of developing our cooperation. We also exchanged ideas on current issues, particularly the painful conflict taking place in Lebanon.

[Reporter] Mr President, one last question. During your brief trip to Tunis, did you discuss your next visit to that country?

[Haydala] Yes. My Tunisian brother renewed the invitation he made to us last time. We are therefore expecting an official invitation within the next few days. This visit will certainly be scheduled for the first 3 months of next year.

Now that you have finished your questions, I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks and deep appreciation to Presidents Chadli Bendjedid and Bourguiba, to their governments and peoples for the warm welcome and generous hospitality they accorded me and my delegation during our stay in their respective countries. [end recording]

On Western Sahara, Maghreb

LD151209 Algiers APS in English 1005 GMT 15 Dec 83

[Text] "If no progress is achieved till 31 December on the way of the application of the 19th summit resolution on Western Sahara, we will be compelled to reconsider our position in the sense of the recognition of the Saharan Arab Republic," the Mauritanian president Mr. Khouna Ould Haydala declared in an interview to the ALGERIAN NEWS AGENCY (APS) as an answer to a question on the situation in the sub-region, a consequence of the

non-application of the OAU resolution during Addis Ababa summit, the Mauritanian President estimated that "for the time being," "he did not see many prospects," adding that the deadline retained by the continental organization "is [word indistinct] approaching while no progress has been made in the negotiations which are, he said, a preliminary to any referendum."

To a question relating to Mauritania's adhesion to the friendship and concord treaty, the Mauritanian head of state declared: "I think that through in the construction of the achieved a leap forward in the construction of the Maghreb that our populations are wishing so much. [sentence as received] I really estimated that the three signatory countries i.e., Algeria, Tunisia and Mauritania constitute a solid basis for this Maghreb because we think, in Mauritania, that the parameter essential to any association is confidence (?and) it really exists between the three countries. I consider then that it is a good start and I wish that the other states follow this way."

Invited to express his feeling after the signature of the convention of demarcation of the Algero-Mauritanian border, president Ould Haydala indicated that between "Mauritania and Algeria, there was no problem of border."

"Nevertheless," he stated, "this signature shows that the two countries respect the principles which have always ruled the OAU and the UN, i.e., the respect of borders inherited at the independence, the peaceful coexistence, the [words indistinct] local affairs.

To a last question on the dramatic situation lived by the Palestinian resistance, President Ould Haydala answered: "Sincerely, these last times we have lived at the same time as the Palestinians their sufferings. In Mauritania we deeply feel the sufferings of our brothers whose situation is becoming complicated. We have the impression that this is a plan of PLO liquidation and this plan may round on those who finance and contribute to it."

MOROCCO

Lebanon's Al-Jumayyil Arrives, Makes Statement

LD152041 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 15 Dec 83

[Excerpt] The Lebanese president, Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil, arrived this evening in Morocco from London. The Lebanese president announced at Sala Airport that his visit will give him an opportunity to talk with King Hassan II on the situation in Lebanon. He said:

[Begin Al-Jumayyil recording] This is not my first or second visit. I am always happy to visit this fraternal, hospitable, kind country. I now have an opportunity to meet the close and beloved brothers of Morocco, particularly His Majesty King Hassan II and his royal highness the crown prince. I think it will be an opportunity to discuss with his majesty the situation in Lebanon, which concerns all Arabs. We hope to be successful in these discussions [words indistinct] [end recording].

Received by Hassan

LD152350 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 15 Dec 83

[Excerpt] King Hassan II received Lebanese President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil at the Royal Palace in Rabat soon after his arrival in Morocco this evening. The Lebanese president then held private talks with the king. Following this meeting, his majesty hosted a banquet in honor of the Lebanese president.

SUDAN

South Korean Envoy Arrives in Khartoum

JN151555 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1445 GMT 15 Dec 83

[Text] Khartoum, 15 Dec (SUNA) — A ranking South Korean envoy representing President Chon Tu-hwan arrived here [words indistinct] with a message to President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri from the South Korean president. The message deals with bilateral relations and issues of common interest.

Following the delivery of the message, the South Korean envoy will hold talks with a number of Sudanese officials on the promotion of cooperation between the two countries.

CAMEROON

Guinean Envoy Delivers Message for Biya

AB151900 Yaounde Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 15 Dec 83

[Text] Interim Prime Minister Ayang Luc today received an envoy of Guinea-Bissau's President Jean Bernado Vieira, bearer of a special message for His Excellency Paul Biya. The envoy, Bissau's minister of natural resources, later told newsmen that the delegation he brought along with him will have to benefit from Cameroon's experience in industrial development, especially in the area of petroleum. He said Guinea-Bissau is about to sign an agreement with international companies for the exploitation of its oil resources. The delegation went into a working session this afternoon with officials of the Ministry of Mines and Power.

Joint Commission Meeting With Belgium Concludes

AB151855 Yaounde Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 15 Dec 83

[Text] The fifth session of the Cameroon-Belgium Joint Commission ended 3 days of deliberations in Yaounde this evening. Addressing participants at the closing ceremony, the secretary general in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and head of the Cameroonian delegation, Mr Gerard Ngba Bidum, said the commission has strengthened cooperation ties between Belgium and Cameroon. Mr Gerard Ngba also thanked the Belgians on behalf of the Cameroon Government for the keen interest shown in development projects in Cameroon. Meanwhile, in a communique issued earlier in the ceremony, the two delegations expressed great satisfaction for the success of their discussions. The delegation also studied consular problems existing between the two countries, reexamined greater commercial ties, as well as economic and fiscal aid. The sixth session of the same commission will be held in Brussels on a date yet to be fixed.

CHAD

SUNA: Official Denies Sudanese Forces in Abeche

JN151856 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1745 GMT 15 Dec 83

[Text] Ndjamena, 15 Dec (SUNA) — Adoum Moussa Seif, Chadian commissioner of animal and water resources and acting information minister and Chadian Government spokesman, has denied reports carried by the BBC citing the Libyan news agency JANA regarding claims on the entry of Sudanese forces into the city of Abeche in eastern Chad, with U.S. support, and the siege of Abeche by these forces in order to occupy the northern region and move toward the north. This is in addition to the claims that France and Zaire have reinforced their forces in Ndjamena in preparation for launching an attack on the supporters of former Chadian President Goukouni Oueddei, and that the OAU's moves to hold peaceful talks are hostile moves which aim at occupying Chad and restoring colonialist rule to it.

In a statement to SUNA, Seif pointed out: This is not the first time that JANA has carried such false reports. He said: There is no reason for Sudanese forces to besiege Abeche. He described these reports as cheap rumors circulated by Libya, because it is not satisfied with the situation.

The Chadian commissioner stressed that Sudan has the right to place its forces on a state of alert to protect its borders. He said: This is what any state will do when it feels that it is threatened with aggression by another state.

Regarding the OAU's moves to hold peaceful talks among the various Chadian parties, Seif pointed out that the OAU has contacted the Chadian Government and opposition and given guarantees to the effect that the roundtable conference will only take place among Chadians without foreign participation. He added that the Chadians themselves will try to reach a real national reconciliation.

Regarding the Libyan claims on military preparations in Ndjamena, the Chadian commissioner said that there is no change in the Chadian Government's position — a government which is ready to repulse the Libyan aggression.

In reply to SUNA's question on JANA's objectives behind circulating such reports at a time when efforts are being exerted to hold the national reconciliation conference in Addis Ababa, the Chadian commissioner pointed out that the Libyans have their own reasons, because they attempt to disrupt the stability of all Chad's neighboring states. He added that the Libyan forces occupy half of Chad's territories and seek to annex Chad. He said that it is not in Libya's interest for the Chadians to meet and reach a solution that would be in their interest.

Seif said: Chad's interests differ from Libya's interests and Libya does not accept the Chadians sitting around a table in Addis Ababa in order to settle their problems by themselves without a third party. He added that it is not the first time that Libya has sought to disrupt such a real reconciliation and that it does so when its existence and interests are threatened.

The Chadian commissioner pointed out that there are some agent Chadians who do not agree on the achievement of national reconciliation, and stand alongside Libya to disrupt the national reconciliation conference to be convened in Addis Ababa.

CONGO

Meeting for Cuban Youth Condemns Grenada Invasion

AB151214 Brazzaville Domestic Service in French 1830 GMT 14 Dec 83

[Text] This morning Congolese and Cuban youth strongly condemned imperialist provocative acts in Latin America, the Caribbean, and the world over at a mass meeting organized in honor of (?the Cuban youth) by the young cadres and fighters of the Congolese People's National Army. On behalf of the Congolese youth, the (?executive secretary of the youth union, Taty-Loutard), pledged unflinching support to the Cuban youth and people in their struggle against imperialism and (?its threats).

[Begin (?Taty-Loutard) recording] The youth of the Congolese People's Republic in general, and of the People's National Army in particular, are opposed to a withdrawal of the Cuban internationalist forces from the Angolan sister republic. [applause] They strongly condemn the economic blockade imposed on the island of freedom by the United States in a bid to prevent it from defending its national unity. They also strongly condemn the illegal occupation of Guantanamo Base by the United States. Finally, they pledged support for the rights of the Cuban people under the leadership of their president. [applause] Analyzing the situation in Latin America and in the Caribbean, the youth of the People's National Army, who are united around their youth organizations, condemn the military intervention in Grenada by U.S. imperialism. We firmly support the internationalist spirit of the valliant freedom fighters from Jose Marti's country. [Words indistinct] we hail the fair positions taken on (?4 November) 1983 on the occasion of the ceremony in memory of the intrepid and valiant internationalists who fell with their arms in Grenada. We warmly hail the intrepid Cuban people and their dynamic youth for their internationalist action in the world. Long live the struggle against imperialism, long live the international proletariat. Long live the indestructible friendship between the Cuban and Congolese peoples. [end recording]

Speaking next, the secretary for youth affairs in the Cuban Army [name not given] reaffirmed the position of the Cuban youth and Army. They will assist struggling people everywhere and at all cost.

[Begin secretary recording in Spanish followed by French translation] We are ready to (?fight at all times). [end recording]

The Cuban delegation left Brazzaville late this afternoon for Pointe-Noire, our economic capital.

RWANDA

Djibouti President Ends Visit; Communique Issued

AB151353 Paris AFP in French 1255 GMT 15 Dec 83

[Text] Kigali, 15 Dec (AFP) — Djibouti President Hassan Gouled Aptidon concluded his 3-day friendly visit to Rwanda today. According to a communique issued at the end of the visit, Presidents Habyarimana of Rwanda and Hassan Gouled of Djibouti called for the earliest implementation of the cooperation agreements signed in April 1980 in Djibouti in the fields of trade and transportation.

The two heads of state stressed the "interest they attach to the promotion and the development of regional and subregional cooperation and to the efforts being made to this effect by OAU member-states." They also recalled the need to revive the North-South dialogue. According to the communique, they further "insisted on the importance of a form of international cooperation which should take into account the interests and the needs of all partners and pay due attention to the problems of the developing countries."

Finally, the two heads of state reaffirmed "their unflagging determination to contribute relentlessly to the strengthening of the OAU and to the pursuance of its objectives; namely, the liberation of all African people and their socioeconomic emancipation."

ZAIRE

Chadian Defense Minister Continues Visit

AB151325 Kinshasa AZAP in French 1215 GMT 15 Dec 83

[Text] Kananga, 14 Dec (AZAP) — Routouang Yoma Golom, Chad's minister of national defense, veterans, and war victims, who began a working visit to Zaire on Sunday, on Wednesday morning arrived in Kananga on the second stage of his tour of the interior.

He was welcomed on arrival at the Kananga airport by Mujinga Nswana Samukasa, acting governor of the Kasai oriental region; Colonel Makuta, commander of the fifth military district; Mayilamene Itsitsar, urban commissioner of Kananga; and Kabeanga Tshikela, zonal commissioner of Kananga.

During his 24-hour visit to Kananga, he will visit the officers training school and hold talks with regional authorities. At 2000 a dinner will be offered in his honor at the official residence of the regional governor. He leaves Kananga for Kolwezi in the Shaba region on Thursday morning.

GHANA

PNDC Member Discusses Workers' Rights at Rally

AB160853 Accra Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 16 Dec 83

[Text] A member of the Provisional National Defense Council [PNDC], Warrant Officer J. Buadi, has said although workers have the right to lay down their tools for better treatment, such an action would be considered reactionary at this present state of the country's economy. He was speaking at the first anniversary rally of the workers' takeover of the Juapong Textiles Ltd [JTL], at Juapong.

Warrant Officer J. Buadi asked the management of the factory to ensure that a good relationship exists between it and the workers to enhance productivity. For this reason, all conditions which tend to suppress the democratic rights of workers must be removed.

The secretary for industries, science, and technology, Dr G.D. Opoku, urged the workers to avoid indiscipline and wastage and go about their activities conscientiously to justify the takeover.

The secretary for information, Miss Joyce Aryee, urged the workers to evolve a system that will ensure maximum production despite the nationwide power cut. She added that power cuts should not be used as an excuse for low production. Miss Aryee remarked that what the new JTL management has achieved in 1 year has far exceeded what the United African Company management was able to do in the best of times. Up till November this year, the workers produced 1,637,188 meters of cotton yarn, bringing in an income of 37,597,317 cedis. For the same period last year, only 792,148 meters were produced, bringing in 6,404,032 cedis.

MALI

Traore Receives Message From SDAR's Abdelaziz

AB151715 Bamako Domestic Service in French 1500 GMT 15 Dec 83

[Text] General Moussa Traore, secretary general of the Democratic Union of Malian People [UDPM] and president of the republic, received SDAR Minister of Foreign Affairs Ibrahim Hakim this morning. The visiting envoy delivered a message from the president of the SDAR, Mohamed Abdelaziz. Their meeting was devoted to a discussion of recent developments in the Western Sahara situation. The SDAR special envoy expressed his deepest gratitude to the Malian people, their party, the UDPM, their government, and to the president of republic, Gen Moussa Traore, for their constant support. Ms Gakou Fatou Niang, acting minister of foreign affairs and international cooperation, Slibou Kone, acting secretary general of the presidency, and diplomatic adviser Tijani Cisse were also present during the audience.

Following the meeting, Minister Ibrahim Hakim briefed the press on the issues he discussed with the president. He placed particular emphasis on the SDAR's pessimism concerning the holding of a referendum in Western Sahara by 31 December.

[Begin recording] [Hakim] I have just had the privilege of being received by his excellency the president of the republic, to whom I delivered a message from Comrade Mohamed Abdelaziz, president of the SDAR and secretary general of the Polisario. His Excellency President Moussa Traore and I discussed the situation prevailing on our continent, with special reference to Western Sahara.

[Unidentified reporter] Mr Minister, what are the current possibilities for an overall settlement of the Western Saharan problem?

[Hakim] Well, the possibilities lie with Resolution 104 of the 19th OAU summit. However, that possibility is now blocked by Morocco's attitude, which is one of opposition to the application of that solution.

[Reporter] Do you believe that a referendum (?is likely to solve the problem?)

[Hakim] The Moroccan king's refusal to accept the application of the 19th summit's Resolution 104 — a resolution which was recently backed by general international consensus at the United Nations — and Morocco's refusal to accept the application of that resolution make us truly pessimistic about the possibility of organizing a referendum before 31 December 1983 as proposed by the 19th summit. [end recording]

SENEGAL

Congolese Minister Ends Visit; Communique Issued

AB151245 Dakar PANA in French 1050 GMT 15 Dec 83

[Text] Dakar, 15 Dec (APS-SENEGAL/PANA) — The 4-day official visit to Senegal begun on Saturday by Daniel Abibi, Congolese minister of information, posts, and telecommunications, ended on Wednesday with the signing of a joint communique.

According to the communique read by Mahmoud Cheikh Kane, permanent under secretary in the Senegalese Ministry of Information, Telecommunications, and Relations with Parliament, Minister Djibo Ka and Daniel Abibi "emphasized the excellent relations of frank and friendly cooperation which exist between the People's Republic of the Congo and the Republic of Senegal."

With a view to strengthening these relations, and in conformity with the instructions given by Denis Sassou-Nguesso and Abdou Diouf, the Congolese and Senegalese delegations closely examined the steps to be taken by the various sectors of their ministries to achieve this goal.

In this connection, the two delegations studied and adopted ways and means to further develop bilateral relations in the fields of information, press, posts, and telecommunications.

In this regard, agreements were signed between the CONGOLESE INFORMATION AGENCY and the SENEGALESE PRESS AGENCY; between Congolese Radio and Television and the Senegalese Radio and Television Office, and, finally, between the Congolese National Posts and Telecommunications Office and the Senegalese Posts and Telecommunications Office.

After visiting the various facilities belonging to the Ministry of Information, Press, and Telecommunications, the Congolese delegation commended the Senegalese Government for the efforts it has made toward developing the information and communications infrastructure in Senegal. While visiting PANA headquarters, the delegation expressed satisfaction with the progress made in line with the agency's assigned objectives.

The Congolese minister and the members of his delegation made a point of expressing their gratitude to President Abdou Diouf, to the Senegalese Government, and to the Senegalese people for the warm, brotherly, and enthusiastic welcome and for the generous hospitality accorded them during their stay in Senegal.

The Congolese minister of information invited his Senegalese counterpart to pay an official visit to the Congo. Djibo Ka accepted the invitation and the date of the visit will be fixed through diplomatic channels.

ANGOLA

Defense Ministry Issues Communique on RSA Actions

MB151330 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1200 GMT 15 Dec 83

[Communique issued by the Ministry of Defense — date not given]

[Text] International imperialism, headed by the United States, does not cease its aggressive and destabilizing maneuvers against the People's Republic of Angola by shamelessly using the minority Pretoria regime. In addition to supporting the armed gangs, bandits, and puppets, the Pretoria regime is occupying a part of our Province of Cunene and is continuing to attack us in disregard of the decisions reached by the international forums. Thus, in order to relieve the pressure that the glorious People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola [FAPLA] have been exerting upon the UNITA counterrevolutionary group in the central part of the country over the past few weeks, racist South Africa has increased its adventurous actions with patrols and reconnaissance flights over positions held by our units in Cunene Province.

At 1700 on 14 December four columns of the racist South African Army, including a reinforced brigade, moved from Xangongo toward our military units in Mulondo. At 1800 one of the columns approached the forward section of the unit and began fighting against our troops. In addition to the forces that the racist South African enemy has inside the People's Republic of Angola, it has also deployed two parachute battalions and two artillery regiments along the border with Angola.

In view of this further adventure by the South African racists, which violates the most elementary international norms, the Ministry of Defense of the People's Republic of Angola alerts the national and international public opinion and calls upon the Angolan people to maintain a high level of vigilance and total involvement in the tasks of defending our dear fatherland, which is being threatened. Loyal to the struggling traditions of our people and the memory of our heroes, aware of the noble role that has been assigned to them in the defense of the revolutionary gains, with a spirit of sacrifice, bravery, and heroism, the courageous FAPLA combatants will know how to repel the criminal designs by the racist enemy.

[Signed] Pedro Maria Tonha Pedale, minister of defense

Talks With Brazil on Trade, Cooperation Begin

MB160704 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 15 Dec 83

[Text] The second economic session of the Angolan-Brazilian Joint Commission was opened in Luanda yesterday by Pedro van Duenm Loi, the Angolan minister of energy and petroleum. The two countries are examining prospects for increasing bilateral cooperation and trade, with the eventual aim of signing agreements. It is worth stressing that in recent years, particularly since 1980, the People's Republic of Angola and Brazil have been trying to lay solid foundations for cooperation through the purchase and sale of indispensable products for the development of their respective economies. Last year, for example, Brazilian imports totaled $99.6 million and imports to our country reached $85.3 million, with a $14.3 million deficit against Brazil.

MPLA Provincial Conference Convenes in Luanda

MB160916 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 16 Dec 83

[Text] The second MPLA-Labor Party provincial conference of Luanda, which began yesterday at the Congress Hall in Luanda, continues this morning with the examination of the report by the provincial committee of the party. Eight items are on the conference working agenda, including the approval of the report of the party provincial organization, which contains activities carried out by it since 1981, and the election of a new leading body of the MPLA-Labor Party provincial committee of Luanda. Comrade Juloao Mateus Paulo, a member of the party Political Bureau, officially opened the second MPLA-Labor Party provincial conference of Luanda and referred to the positive work carried out in recent months for holding the meeting and strengthening the party. He said there still existed many problems in various fields and to overcome them the party needed the dynamism of its members.

Speaking on the present situation facing the country in all fields, Colonel Dino Matross said that the Angolan people were fighting against imperialist forces, which are trying to extend their tentacles to all levels. He said at present Luanda was a city where these tentacles are trying to find roots through liberalism, disorganization, graft, laissez-faire, and many other antisocial practices, which the members of the MPLA-Labor Party must fight with firmness.

It is worth noting that the first MPLA-Labor Party provincial conference of Luanda was held 2 years ago also at the Congress Hall. Then the conference examined activities carried out by party structures in Luanda since 1977. This year, the party conference is being held in a different context, because its proceedings will culminate with the first national conference of the MPLA-Labor Party. The second party conference is due to end 18 December 1983.

BOTSWANA

Parliament Adjourns; Masire Speech Reported

MB151140 Gaborone BOTSWANA DAILY NEWS in English 1 Dec 83 p 4

[By Mmoniemang Madikwe]

[Text] Gaborone, Nov 25 — The fifth session of the Fourth Parliament adjourned sine die this afternoon after three weeks of business.

The session was opened by the President, Dr Q.K.J. Masire, on November 7, with a call for national unity.

In his speech, the president informed the nation that the session was the last one before Batswana go to the polls in the fifth general elections since independence in 1966.

The first one and half weeks of the meeting was devoted to the motion of an address of thanks to the opening speech by the president.

This motion stimulated active debate and there were accusations and counter accusations between the government, for failing to promote rural development, and the MP for Kanye North, Mr Motsokwane Yane, who said that the Financial Assistance Policy and the Namolo Leuba schemes were "political propaganda" to ensure that the BDP [Botswana Democratic Party] wins the general elections.

On the other hand, the opposition came under fire from the assistant ministers of agriculture and local government and lands, Mr Gaothaetse Matlhabaphiri and Lesedi Mothibamele, who accused them for dishonesty, violence for dividing Batswana.

MPS also saw eight bills passed through their third reading during the session.

Financial Paper Number Two of 1983, containing supplementary estimates running over P42 million was approved after members had expressed concern of over-expenditure by the government.

LESOTHO

King Moshoeshoe Receives New Israeli Ambassador

MB151600 Maseru Domestic Service in English 1130 GMT 15 Dec 83

[Text] The Israeli ambassador to Lesotho, His Excellency Mr Meir Joffe, has promised to advise his government on Lesotho's national development needs and explore every possiblity to extend cooperation in all fields which the government will deem important. Presenting his letters of credence to His Majesty King Moshoeshoe II at the Royal Palace in Maseru this morning, Mr Joffe said that he is hopeful that Lesotho and Israel will continue in the tradition of learning from each other and exchanging their cooperation and know-how to the full benefit of their people.

The Israeli ambassador extended to his majesty and the people of Lesotho greetings from the people of Israel. Replying to the Israeli ambassador's speech, His Majesty King Moshoeshoe II remarked that Lesotho, like Israel, deserved peace and has a formidable task to maintain her territorial integrity, independence, and warm relations with her neighbors. His majesty maintains that Lesotho cherishes peace, freedom, and security, not only for her people and brothers in the subcontinent, but for all mankind. These goals should be achieved because it is only through peace that all efforts for development can be fully utilized. His majesty asked the new Israeli ambassador to convey his warm greetings to the president of Israel.

MADAGASCAR

Mauritian Minister Arrives for Trade Talks

MB160700 Antananarivo Domestic Service in French 0430 GMT 15 Dec 83

[Text] Mauritian Finance and Economy Minister Vishnu Seetanah Lutchmeenaraidoo has arrived in Madagascar. During his stay, he will sign an agreement in the field of trade within the framework of strengthening the relations of friendship and cooperation between Mauritius and Madagascar. Mr Lutchmeenaraidoo has said that his country is interested in our products, particularly meat and (?cooking oil). Speaking in reply, Malagasy Minister of Commerce Georges Solofoson said that the ties between the two islands are many years old and should be promoted from strength to strength. Mr Solofoson also reiterated the Malagasy position on South-South relations, relations among developing countries, and the need to promote such relations, particularly between Madagascar and Mauritius since they are territories of the Indian Ocean region.

MALAWI

Trade Minister Departs for Harare PTA Meeting

MB152025 Blantyre Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 15 Dec 83

[Text] The minister of trade, industry, and tourism, Mr (Kachola) Phiri left the country today for Zimbabwe to attend the third ministerial council meeting of the Preferential Trade Area, PTA, for east and central Africa. Speaking to MALAWI NEWS AGENCY at Kamuzu International Airport in Lilongwe before departure, Mr (Kachola) Phiri said during the meeting, which starts tomorrow in Harare, the ministers will consider reports on seven activities, including technical and administrative duties. He said the ministerial council will also consider the working program of the PTA's Secretariat for the (?years 1984-85) budget. The minister will also attend the 2-day summit meeting of PTA from December 19th to December 20th, at which he will represent the life president.

MOZAMBIQUE

Machel Confers With Military Commanders in Beira

MB151550 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 030 GMT 15 Dec 83

[Text] I shall consider your present as a call to the struggle against armed bandits, President Samora Machel said in Beira yesterday when he received a small statue from the workers of CFM-Center, as a symbol of his dynamism in leading the destinies of our country. During the presentation ceremony, which was part of the 50th birthday anniversary celebrations of the president of the republic, the workers of CFM-Center presented a message reaffirming their readiness to actively participate in the struggle against hunger and the armed bandits. According to our reporting team in Beira, the supreme leader of the Mozam

bique revolution held a meeting in this city with Marcelino dos Santos, the leader of Sofala, and the military commanders of Manica and Sofala. The meeting examined the political and military situation in the two provinces. President Samora Machel, who has already returned to Maputo, made a stopover in Beira city from Cabo Delgado Province.

Discloses Capture of 'Bandits'

MB160631 Maputo in English to Southern Africa 1800 GMT 15 Dec 83

[Text] President Samora Machel said yesterday that thousands of armed bandits have been taken prisoner in recent operations by the defense and security forces. President Samora was speaking in Beira, where he made a brief working visit en route to Maputo from a private stay in the northern Province of Cabo Delgado.

He added that the Mozambican people will be consulted on the way in which the state should deal with the bandits, and particularly with those of the most serious offenses. During his visit to Beira, President Samora chaired a meeting with Marcelino dos Santos, the political head of Sofala Province, and with the military commanders of Sofala and Manica Provinces.

Talks Held With Zimbabwe on Pipeline 14 Dec

MB141945 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1900 GMT 14 Dec 83

[Text] Talks were held today in Beira between Mozambique and Zimbabwean delegations within the framework of regular consultations between the governments of the two countries. During the talks, the delegations dealt with matters designed to strengthen the relations of cooperation between the two countries, particularly regarding the pipeline.

Opening the meeting, Major General Marcelino dos Santos, head of the Mozambique delegation, noted that the pipeline is a great symbol of unity between the Mozambique and Zimbabwean peoples, adding that through it the two parties manage to feel the meaning of freindship, unity, and solidarity. Referring to the aggressive actions of the Pretoria regime, of which the two countries are victims, the leader of Sofala Province said that all efforts in the various sectors must be based on strengthening the capabilities of both countries against aggression.

In his speech, Marcelino dos Santos expressed the belief that by holding the current meeting, the relations between the peoples, parties, and governments of both countries will be strengthened.

Bernard Chidzero, minister of economic planning and finance and head of the Zimbabwean delegation, said the pipeline was important for the Zimbabwean and Mozambique economies.

The Mozambique delegation to the talks included the ministers of finance, ports, railways, and shipping, industry, and power, Rui Baltasar, Alcantara Santos, and Antonio Branco, respectively.

AUCCTU Delegation Arrives in Maputo for Talks

MB151525 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1030 GMT 15 Dec 83

[Text] A delegation led by Sergey Belyayev, the secretary of the food industry workers union branch of the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions [AUCCTU] of the USSR, arrived in Maputo this morning for talks with the Mozambique Workers Organization [OTM] to study areas of cooperation.

The delegation was received at Maputo airport by (Carlos Mucareia), the secretary of the Central Council of OTM and other members of the organization. The Soviet delegation of trade unions will visit in our country, among other places, the Matola industrial company, Soger, Mosopesca, and Maputo harbor.

Official Discusses Havana Ministerial Meeting

MB142035 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1700 GMT 14 Dec 83

[Text] Cuba will continue to be one of our greatest partners in technical cooperation in the health sector.

This was stated today by (Jorge Tomo), deputy coordinator of the Department for International Cooperation of the Ministry of Health. (Jorge Tomo) is one of the members of the Mozambique delegation, headed by Minister Pascoal Mucumbi, which took part in the 24th meeting of the ministers of health of socialist countries, which was held in Havana 1-4 December.

According to statements made by (Jorge Tomo), the 24th meeting of health ministers of socialist countries dealt with mobile primary health care:

[Begin (Tomo) recording] On this theme, the ministers of health exchanged views about the meaning of primary health care in their respective countries, its present situation, and prospects for development. In addition to the meeting of health ministers of socialist countries, which was held 1-4 December, the Mozambique delegation also took part as an observer in the 14th meeting of ministers of CEMA member-countries. We only took part as observers. The Mozambique delegation also made an official visit to the Republic of Cuba at the invitation of Dr Sergio del Valle Jimenez, Cuban minister of health. [end recording]

The visit, according to (Jorge Tomo) provided a better understanding of the health policy, organization, and training of health personnel in Cuba. The health ministers of Mozambique and Cuba assessed the cooperation between the two countries in the field of health and discussed future prospects. With regard to the 24th meeting of health ministers of socialist countries, it is known that it studied reports on the fulfillment of the decisions adopted at the last meeting, which was held in Ulaanbaatar in the People's Republic of Mongolia.

The Cuban meeting was attended by delegations from Angola, Afghanistan, Bulgaria, Hungary, Vietnam, GDR, Kampuchea,

DPRK, Cuba, Laos, Mozambique, Mongolia, Poland, Soviet Union, and Czechoslovakia.

SOUTH AFRICA

Government Prepared To Disengage Troops in Angola

MB160624 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 16 Dec 83

[Text] On 31 January the Government of South Africa is prepared to begin a disengagement of forces which from time to time conduct military operations against SWAPO in Angola on the understanding that this gesture is reciprocated by the Angolan Government. This has been stated by the minister of foreign affairs, Mr Pik Botha, in a letter to the secretary general of the United Nations, Dr Perez de Cuellar. The letter was handed to Dr de Cuellar last night by the South African permanent representative at the United Nations, Mr Kurt von Schirnding. Mr Botha said that the Angolan Government would have to ensure that its own forces, SWAPO, and the Cuban forces would not exploit the resulting situation, particularly with regard to actions that might threaten the security of the inhabitants of South-West Africa. Mr Botha said the proposed action would initially last for 30 days and could be extended on condition that provisions of the proposal were adhered to, and he said that the South African Government remained prepared to begin the process of implementing Security Council Resolution 435 as soon as the problem of the Cuban presence in Angola had been resolved. Mr Botha asked the secretary general to circulate his letter as a document of the Security Council.

A spokesman for the Department of Foreign Affairs said in Pretoria that the offer to keep South African troops out of Angola was not conditional on a withdrawal of Cuban troops from that country. However, he stressed that the South African proposal did not mean that South Africa was offering to withdraw its troops from South-West Africa. The Security Council is to meet later today at the request of Angola to discuss what has been described as the threat to peace and security caused by the occupation of parts of Angola by South Africa since 1981. Mr von Schirnding is to address the Security Council during the meeting.

Bomb Explosion in Johannesburg Injures Seven

MB151635 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1629 GMT 15 Dec 83

[Text] Johannesburg, Dec 15, SAPA — At least seven people were injured in two bomb explosions which shook Johannesburg late today — the first in Selby just after 1600 and the second in the city centre at 1745. The seven were injured in the city centre blast, apparently in an information office of the Department of Foreign Affairs on the fourth floor of the Old Arcade, directly opposite the City Hall in Market Street. Unconfirmed reports said more people might have been trapped in their offices, while rumours circulated that second bomb was in the building.

Police, bomb disposal squad cars, traffic officials, fire engines and ambulances coverged on the scene within minutes, cordoning off the area and preventing entry. Large crowds gathered immediately in the glass-littered part of Market Street. At least three cars, passing at the moment of the blast, were damaged. First reports said three black security guards, passing in a combi, which was blown right across the road, were cut about the face and body. A security guard in the building and a cleaner were among the injured.

Louis Mazubuki, a *SUNDAY TIMES* reporter, and his driver, Tabu Tloti, were also passing and Mr Tloti sustained light injuries to his shoulder from shards of glass which whipped in through the open drivers window. Mr Mazubuki, who escaped injury in the front passenger seat, said they narrowly escaped smashing into the car in front. The blast shattered the rear window of their vehicle.

A paramedic who was one of the first on the scene said she saw what appeared to be a second bomb in a waste bin on the fourth floor. She was prevented from getting closer by a fire which followed the blast. A bomb disposal squad with sniffer dogs have since entered the building.

A badly shaken Johannesburg city councillor, Mrs Winnie Haveloh, had just left her offices in the Old Arcade, climbed into her motor car parked in front of the building, and pulled away when the bomb exploded. "My partner said its a bomb," she said. "I saw smoke coming our of the building and saw Alfred, one of the building cleaners, had sustained an injury to his right hand. [quotation marks as received]

Two blocks of Market Street, between Harrison and Rissik Streets, was cordoned off with coils of barbed wire to keep onlookers back. The Old Arcade is situated one building away from the corner of Rissik Street. The historic Rissik Street Post Office is diagonally across the road. The foreign affairs offices close at 1630 and it is thought there were no office workers in them at the time. No details on the Selby blast are yet available. [Johannesburg SAPA in English at 1842 GMT on 15 Dec 83 adds: "Seven people were injured, not seriously, in a blast in the city centre, shortly after reports of another 'bomb' exploding in Selby, a commercial area on the outskirts of the city, just after 1600. But it turned out to be a controlled explosion on a mine dump by a mining company."]

Police Official on Blast

MB151921 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1907 GMT 15 Dec 83

[Text] Johannesburg, Dec 15, SAPA — The explosive device which "extensively damaged" the regional information office of the Department of Foreign Affairs in Johannesburg late today had not yet been identified, Lieutenant-Colonel Fred Bull, the police public relations officer on the Witwatersrand, said tonight. First indications were that the device had been placed on the fourth floor of the Old Arcade building in Market Street, near the offices of the department. As far as could be established, six people had been injured and admitted to hospital. An official announcement about the injured would be made later.

Asked if anybody had been killed in the explosion, he said no deaths had been reported by early tonight. "The type of explosive device has not yet been established but we will make an announcement as soon as possible after completion of the investigation at the scene," he said nobody had so far claimed responsibility. "Damage to the offices were extensive," he said. "Windows were blown out and partitions inside were destroyed."

Asked about a second explosion in Selby, Colonel Bull said the blast had been caused by mine-officials carrying out experiments with explosives on mine property.

Investigations at the scene of the Market Street blast had been called off for the night and would continue tomorrow. The building had been barricaded and would be guarded, he added.

Limpet Mine Used in Blast

MB151939 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1900 GMT 15 Dec 83

[Excerpts] An explosion, thought to have been caused by a bomb, occured at about 1600 [as heard] this evening on the fourth floor of the Old Mutual Building in the Old Arcade between Commissioner and Market Streets in Johannesburg. A police spokesman has said that it has been ascertained that the blast was caused by limpet mine. The investigation for clues will be continued tomorrow.

Three Bomb Explosions Reported in Durban

MB160550 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 16 Dec 83

[Text] Three explosions occurred in Durban last night. One explosive device had apparently been attached to a lamp post between the Natal Command Headquarters and the new Water Wonderland on the Snell Parade. Two others had been placed in shrubbery about 4 meters from the lamp post. No one was injured, and the damage was slight.

Man Pleads Guilty to Botha Bombing Attempt

MB150856 Johannesburg International Service in English 0630 GMT 15 Dec 83

[Text] In the Pietermaritzburg Magistrate's Court, a man has been charged with attempting to explode a bomb outside the Pietermaritzburg City Hall where the prime minister of South Africa, Mr P.W. Botha, was speaking in October. Mr Tembinkosi Paulson Ngcobo pleaded guilty to seven charges of terrorism under the Internal Security Act, but the magistrate entered pleas of not guilty to six counts because he was not satisfied that Mr Ngcobo had the necessary intention to commit the acts. The magistrate is still to enter a plea on the seventh charge, relating to a hidden arms cache, which was not dealt with. Mr Ngcobo also admitted causing an explosion at the College Road Supreme Court in Pietermaritzburg on 20 January. He also admitted placing the explosive devices that caused an explosion at the Drakensberg Administration Board offices in Sobantu on 11 February and attempting to blow up three electricity supply pylons on the outskirts of the city this year. The seventh charge relates to establishing a cache of mines, explosives, and other material between 25 October and 5 November. The trial continues.

Two ANC Members, Others Arrested in Johannesburg

MB151904 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1900 GMT 15 Dec 83

[Text] Johannesburg, Dec 15, SAPA — Security police today arrested a trained black ANC terrorist in the Johannesburg area and announced the arrest of five whites in the wake of the Niehaus treason trial.

A statement released by security police chief, Major General Frans Steenkamp, said the five whites, including two women, had been arrested in terms of Section 29 of the Internal Security Act. The arrests followed information police obtained during their investigation of the case against Carl Niehaus and Jansie Lourens who were convicted of high treason last month. The five were arrested by members of the Security Branch, assisted by the police task force, on Monday and Tuesday, some on a farm in the Magaliesberg district. He did not say where the others were detained.

General Steenkamp stressed that the investigations were in a delicate stage and that at present no further details could be revealed because it would jeopardize the investigation. The general added that everything possible was being done to expedite the investigation, after which the docket would be forwarded to the attorney-general.

General Steenkamp also said a second "well-known" and trained ANC terrorist was arrested in the Johannesburg area today and a quantity of arms seized. His arrest follows an arrest last week in Soweto in which an ANC terrorist was captured and a second man arrested shortly afterwards in Eldorado Park after police were fired on. A quantity of limpet mines, arms and ammunition and explosives of Russian origin were seized at the time.

General Steenkamp said the arrests were evidence of the SAP's [South African Police] "continuous and increased fight against terrorists." Investigations were continuing and no further information could be revealed at this stage, General Steenkamp added.

RAND DAILY MAIL Interviews Ciskei's Sebe

MB151050 Johannesburg RAND DAILY MAIL in English 14 Dec 83 p 10

[By Patrick Laurence, political editor]

[Excerpts] Ciskei's President for Life Lennox Sebe hesitated briefly before answering. "No, it is a clash of cultures," he said. It was at the end of a long interview in his office in the new government building at Bisho, capital of his fledgling polity. He was replying to a view that his acceptance of the presidency for life was a contradiction of democracy.

Guards patrolled the corridors outside, and two plainclothes security men sat in the waiting room leading to his office, pistols tucked into their trousers at the waistband.

"In our constitution we have stated that we will take Western concepts but dovetail them with our own culture," President Sebe said.

Speaking slowly, almost languidly, he explained how the chiefs decided to give him the "highest award that the Xhosa nation can give anybody" for his services to the nation...the feather of the blue crane, or Indwe, and, with it, the life presidency. The motion to make him president for life was moved in July in the Ciskei's National Assembly by the vice-president, the Revered W.M. Xaba...who, ironically, has since fallen from grace and is firmly excluded from power although not yet formally deprived of his title.

The last few months have been tough ones for President Sebe as the Ciskei plunged from one crisis to the next. In what appears to have been a quarrel within the family fief, no less than five Sebes have been detained, including two of President Sebe's brothers...the former commander-general of national security, Lt-General Charles Sebe, and the former minister of transport, Mr Namba Sebe.

At the same time the boycott of Ciskei Transport Corporation buses by commuters at Mdantsane has escalated into a major struggle between President Sebe and his opponents in the township, which is close to East London but just inside the Ciskei border. The detentions and the shooting of commuters in August have brought a measure of international notoriety to President Sebe, who has been referred to by the BBC as "Pappa Doc," after the infamous former Haitian dictator.

One of the most controversial moves by President Sebe was his decision to to use vigilantes from the rural areas at the height of the boycott. Their advent sparked alllegations that they had held people captive at Sisa Dushashe Stadium and tortured them there.

Conceding that he had used vigilantes to help the police at Mdantsane, President Sebe said: "But they were under an officer. Each chief was asked to send about 10 well-behaved men. Two schools had been burnt down. We needed people to guard schools." He added: "People who were caught by the vigilantes were kept at the stadium until a police van came to collect them."

When the interview turned to the role of the South African Allied Workers Union [SAAWU] in the boycott, President Sebe's voice went up a decibel or two as he blamed it for the lawlessness at Mdantsane. He was insistent that SAAWU had claimed responsibility for the boycott and the violence, sweeping aside attempts to argue that there was a difference between acknowledging leadership of the boycott and admitting culpability for the violence associated with it.

"You are misinformed," he said emphatically. "You don't know what is happening, even now. They took part in violence. You don't know SAAWU at all. You cannot succeed with a boycott unless you intimidate or you injure. It is not an interpretation. It is a fact of township life...The problem with you people is that you think you are talking about the cities and all that. If they are not for violence, why do they carry dangerous weapons? They have sharpened steel, pangas and knifes."

Later, however, when the question of detainees was broached, President Sebe said: "I have released all these SAAWU people. Thre are nine people (in detention now)." One of these is a Roman Catholic priest, Father Smangaliso Mkhatshwa, whose internment has aroused anger and anxiety in both South Africa and overseas. President Sebe said of Father Mkhatshwa's detention: "Investigations are going on. He contravened a security law and he defied an order that was served that his presence (at Fort Hare University) would cause problems."

The Ciskei regime banned SAAWU this September, a move which was preceded by strongly-worded statements against trade unions in general. But President Sebe insisted that his quarrel was not with unions per se but with unregistered unions.

"I have no objection to affiliated unions. But I cannot have vultures flying all over...I am not prepared to recognise unions unless they fall within the regulations." The Ciskei does not have a labour relations act providing for the registration of trade unions.

Pressed on whether that meant he expected unions to register under South Africa's Labour Relations Act to enjoy recognition from his putatively independent regime, he replied: "Yes." But he added, after further queries, that Ciskei had been planning a law of its own providing for the operation of trade unions.

"We had drafted it, but they (SAAWU) were so arrogant they would have nothing to do with it. Now we'll stop where we are and see what their attitude is."

As the designated homeland of Ciskei Xhosa, the Ciskei has been made the focal point of a vast plan for the relocation of blacks living outside Ciskei but deemed to be its nationals. Half of its present population of 700,000 have been "resettled" there over the past two decades, many of those "resettled" still living in squalid camps and who impose immense strains on Ciskei's limited resources.

Some observers have held President Sebe partially responsible for the relocation of these people, seeing it as an inextricable part of the programme of establishing the nominally independent polity of Ciskei. President Sebe, however, was adamant that Ciskei would not cooperate in any further plans to relocate blacks from South Africa to Ciskei.

"We stand firm. We will not accept them. South Africa may force them, but we are not going to be party to that. "How can you bring in more squatters when the conditions of those that have already been brought in have not improved?"

Referring to the existing squatter camps spread across the rural hinterland of Ciskei, he said: "These places are becoming dangerous because the people have no money. Anybody who offers them money can get accommodation. We have caught a few activists among these people."

Facing a politically-hostile urban population in Mdantsane — the second biggest black township in South Africa — President Sebe seemed conscious of the peril presented by burgeoning squatter camps to his essentially rural and tribal power base. It probably led to his decision to castigate South Africa in his speech at Ciskei's second anniversary celebrations 10 days ago for failing to deliver land allocated to Ciskei as far back as 1975.

The speech resulted in a visit to President Sebe last week by South Africa's Mr Barend du Plessis, minister of education and training, Mr Ben Wilkens, deputy minister of land affairs, and Mr Louis Nel, deputy minister of foreign affairs. President Sebe recalled: "They were here after my speech. They were not arrogant. They were flat on their stomachs."

SWAZILAND

Delegation Departs for Harare PTA Meeting

MB151515 Mbabane Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 14 Dec 83

[Text] The minister for commerce, industry, mines, and economic planning, Mr Derick von Wissel, left the country today for Harare, Zimbabwe, to attend the meeting of the Council of Ministers of the Preferential Trade Area [PTA] for eastern and southern African States. In a statement issued in Mbabane today by the same ministry, the aim of the meeting is to consider reports submitted by various committees of the PTA in the fields of trade and customs, clearing and payment arrangements, industry cooperation, agricultural cooperation, transport, and communications. [sentence as heard] Members of the delegation who left over the weekend included Mr P.S. Mngometulu, principal secretary in the Ministry of Commerce, Industry, Mines, and Economic Planning; the director of agriculture, Mr V. Phungwayo; and Mr S.S. Kuhlase, who is the manager at the Central Bank of Swaziland. The others were Miss T.A. Dlamini, chief commercial officer; and Mrs J. Richards, a planning officer in the Minister of Works and Communications.

Arms, Explosives Found in Malkerns Farmhouse

MB161028 Mbabane THE SWAZI OBSERVER in English 16 Dec 83 pp 1,5

[By Desmond Ngwenya]

[Excerpts] An arms and explosives cache was found hidden in a farmhouse between Mahlanya and Malkerns on Wednesday afternoon. The arms, believed to be of Soviet origin, are said to have been abandoned by members of the African National Congress (ANC). The arms were discovered in one of the rooms in the house by farm workers who were moving in some furniture belonging to a tenant who was taking residence in the house on the same day. An undisclosed number of explosives were found hidden in a bucket, while machineguns were hidden in shelves.

Immediately the arms were discovered, the matter was reported to the police, who rushed to the scene. A police headquarters spokesman confirmed the discovery but declined further comment on the type and quantity of the guns and the explosives.

"All I can say is that we believe the arms were abandoned by members of the ANC and that they are of Russian origin. No arrests have been made so far and police investigations are still continuing", he said.

Last week a total of eight limpet mine bombs were found in separate incidents at Nhlangano in the Shiselweni district. The mines were discovered by women who had gone to fetch firewood in the forest.

An AK-47 rifle was also discovered at Mahamba in a forest. In another incident a member of the ANC was found in possession of a machinegun and three hand grenades at Mhlangatane, last weekend.

ZAMBIA

Kaunda Lauds Argentine Return to Civilian Rule

MB160840 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 15 Dec 83

[Text] His excellency the president, Dr Kaunda, has hailed Argentina for returning to civilian rule after a long period of military rule. He expressed the hope that the people of Argentina would continue to forge ahead with its development and reconstruction for their own benefit. The president said this in a congratulatory message sent to Argentinian President Dr Raul Alfonsin. Dr Kaunda hoped that the warm relations that exist between the two countries would be strengthened further and consolidated for the mutual benefit of the people of Zambia and Argentina.

Foreign Minister Receives New Mozambique Envoy

MB160758 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 15 Dec 83

[Text] Minister of Foreign Affairs Professor Lameck Goma today applauded the people of Mozambique for the tremendous courage demonstrated in defeating the Portuguese colonialists. Dr Goma spoke when the new Mozambique ambassador to Zambia, Mr Joao Cuambe, presented his letters of credence to him at his office. The minister also commended the Mozambique party, Frelimo, for the decision it took immediately after 10 months of independence to support the liberation struggle of the now independent Zimbabwe and that of Namibia. Dr Goma expressed pleasure that Mozambique, together with other front-line states, was playing a vital role to dismantle apartheid in South Africa and bring about independence in that country.

Meets Outgoing Japanese Envoy

MB160848 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 14 Dec 83

[Text] Prime Minister Nalumino Mundia has said in Lusaka that Japan's assistance has been ranked as the top four contributing countries to Zambia's development in health, education, agriculture, and telecommunications. Speaking at the cabinet office when he met the outgoing Japanese ambassador to Zambia, Eiji

Seki, Mr Mundia said Japan's contribution to Zambia's development was so great that the leadership felt humbled by it. He also commended Mr Seki for his role in promoting the cordial relationship between the two countries. Mr Seki leaves Zambia next week, after serving for 2 and 1/2 years.

ZIMBABWE

14 Dec PTA Conference Proceedings Reported

MB160803 Harare Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 15 Dec 83

[Text] The third meeting of the intergovernmental commission of experts of the Preferential Trade Area, PTA, of eastern and southern Africa, continued in Harare yesterday. The delegates recommended the creation of a contract purchase of about $50,000 among member-countries. The contract committee wil consist of three PTA member-countries, including the host country. The delegates urged the council of ministers to appoint such a committee when they meet in Harare tomorrow. The commission also discussed the privileges and immunities enshrined in its draft agreement in Lusaka last year. The draft agreement is subject to adoption by the ministerial council starting tomorrow and approval by heads of states meeting on Monday.